# Power of the Spoken Word - Funnies

**A banker went to inspect a ranch owned by a man who was seeking a large loan. As the two men discussed the deal, they saw a herd of buffalo charging across the range. Suddenly, the lead buffalo stopped, and the herd behind did the same. “Why do you suppose they stopped?” the banker asked. “Well,” said the rancher, “you see the leader? He's got very good ears, and I think he just heard a discouraging word.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**Hagar says to his servant about the man sitting next to them: “He’s such a cheating liar that nobody bothers with him anymore!” Then the man who is being talked about says: “I’m buying.” Hagar then responds to the servant: “But I say everyone deserves a second chance!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**Eight-year-old Judy was going to summer camp for the first time -- the same camp her 13-year-old brother Jim was attending. The family worried about Judy becoming homesick, and immediately upon her return they asked if she'd had any problems. “Oh, occasionally I would get a little homesick,” she said. “But I would just go over and stand by Jim's tent and pretty soon he would come out and yell, ‘GET OUT OF HERE!’ and then I'd feel okay again.” (Phyllis Lewis, in Reader's Digest)  
My 16-year-old would be getting his learner’s permit soon, and I never missed an opportunity to remind him about seat-belt safety. Riding in the car one day, I started my lecture: “When you or your friends are in your car, do not start driving until everyone is strapped in! Understand?” Instead of giving me the usual “I know,” he said, “Mom, say that again.” So I offered my warning again: “Whenever you’re in your car, don’t start driving . . .” He asked me to repeat it three more times, until I finally asked what was wrong. “Nothing,” he said. “I just love hearing you say, ‘your car.’” *(Anita Robbins, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When Johnny Carson once joked in his monologue about a shortage of toilet paper, he caused a nationwide run on TP, creating an actual shortage. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 21)**

**Billy says to his friend: “I’ll be glad when my voice changes. Maybe somebody will listen to me then.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic stip)***

**Young Father O’Reilly, newly ordained, was to hear his first confessions. Anxious to get off on the right foot, he asked the experienced Father McMartin for advice. The two sat in the rectory and Father McMartin began. “First of all,” McMartin cautioned, “weigh your words with care. For example, priests should always respond to penitents with ‘I understand,’ . . . rather than ‘Oh, wow!’” (Joey Hayes, in Catholic Digest)**

**According to a new study, people on a low-carb diet, like Atkins, eat more than people on a standard diet, but also lose more weight. This is thanks to the extra calories they lose during their nonstop yammering about how they’re on Atkins. (Tina Fey)**

**Grandma: “Dinner is served.” Girl watching TV says: “Ok, be there in a bit.” Grandma: “We’re eating now.” Boy: “What are we having?” The children start running toward the table when Grandma says: “Nice warm bowls of get your rears to the table this second.” Girl: “The house specialty!” *(Steve Breen, in Grand Avenue comic strip)*  
From the Hartford, Wisconsin, Booster: “Lost: black retriever dog, answers to ‘Dinner’s ready.’” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**While waiting for an elevator in a shopping mall, I bent down to remind my young boys that it is polite to wait at the side of the doors so people can get off before we get on. As I straightened up, I saw ten adults quickly lining up to the side behind my children. (Cynthia Bernau, in Reader’s Digest)  
President Carter's televised speech about energy conservation really had dramatic results. A poll showed that 90 percent of the TV sets in America that were on when he began were off by the time he finished. (Robert Orben)**

**Paying my bill at the doctor’s office, I noticed one of the clerks licking and sealing a large stack of envelopes. Two co-workers were trying to persuade her to use a damp sponge instead. One woman explained that she could get a paper cut. Another suggested that the glue might make her sick. Still, the clerk insisted on doing it her own way. As I was leaving, I mentioned to the clerk that there was a tenth of a calorie in the glue of one envelope. Then I saw her frantically rummaging around for the sponge. (Dorothy McDaniel, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Three men were sentenced to execution by firing squad. They agreed to escape by yelling out a natural disaster and escaping when the soldiers ran for cover. When the captain asked, “Ready . . . aim . . .” the first man yelled “Earthquake!” The solders took cover and he escaped. They brought out the second man. The captain yelled, “Ready . . . aim . . .” Then the second man yelled “Tornado!” Again the soldiers ran for cover and he escaped. The third man had to pick a new disaster. When the captain, “Ready . . . aim . . .” he yelled, “Fire!” (Rocky Mountan News)**

**In a store parking lot, I heard expletives coming from a nearby car. As I got closer, a gentle-looking woman at the wheel of the car peered up at me. “Please excuse the language,” she said apologetically, “but my husband insists it’s the only way this car will start.” Right on cue, the engine turned over and woman drove off. *(Cindy Robinson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Outside city hall, a boy selling newspapers bellowed, “Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Two men swindled!” A man walked up to the boy, bought a paper, and sat down to read it. “Hey, kid,” he protested a few moments later, “there’s nothing in here about two men being cheated.” “Extra! Extra!” shouted the boy. “Three men swindled!” *(Mike Lessiter, in Country Chuckles, Cracks & Knee-slappers)***

**Grandma: “I think I have ‘empty nest syndrome’. It’s that feeling of depression you get when all the children have left home. Did you know that Tony Randall fathered a child at the age of seventy-seven?” As Grandpa falls over in the chair, Grandma says: “I like to shake him up every once in a while.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles)**

**A Christian Science child fell down stairs while carrying her little dog, Fido. Fido fell out of her arms and they bumped together all the way down the stairs. At the bottom, the mother came running, saying, “Oh! darling, are you hurt?” The little tot replied, “No, mamma; I’m all right, for every time I hit a step I said, ‘Truth! Truth!’ But I think Fido’s pretty badly hurt, for ever time he hit he said, ‘Er-or!  Er-or!  Er-or!’” *(W. W.,  Elmira, N.Y., in Weekly Unity, March 12, 1913)***

**Frank says to Ernest: “I hope they pass it (National Health Plan) soon, because all the speeches about it are making me sick!” (Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)  
  
Too early for hospital visiting hours, my son tried to sneak in to see his wife and day-old baby. When a nurse stopped him, he explained that he was bringing “some things she wanted from home." The nurse deftly took the radio and magazines from his arms and said she would give them to his wife. “But...but, nurse,” he blurted pathetically, I'm one of the things she wanted.” He got in to see her. (H. L., in Catholic Digest)  
  
 H. L. Mencken, the American editor and critic, met the woman he married when he gave a lecture entitled “How To Catch Husbands.” (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Strange Coincidences, p. 34)**

**The only dependable fortune-teller I have known is the life-insurance man. He tells you what is going to happen and it does. (Theodore Roosevelt)  
Hammie: “Can I have a cookie?” Mom: “What’s the magic word?” Zoe: “I’m telling!” Mom: “I mean the magic word that works with me, not Zoe.” Zoe: “Oh, then, please?” (Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**My former teacher, Sister Lucia, had 50 students in one class. After herding her brood into church for weekly Mass, she noticed one of the boys acting up. She coughed. She cleared her throat. Finally, in exasperation, she hissed, “Neil!” Immediately, all 50 students dropped to their knees. *(Ann S. Boland, in Catholic Digest)***

**As the husband yells at his wife the plants around her begin to wither, and she responds: “How dare you shout at me like that in front of the plants.” (Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)  
  
Stressing the value of a large vocabulary, the college instructor told the class, “Use a word ten times and it will be yours for life.” In the back of the room, a brunette looked out the window and chanted softly, “Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom,” (Al Batt)  
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