**Exceptions to the Rule**

**Mr. Wilson says to Mrs. Wilson: "You know I don't like additives in my food. With the exception of gravy." (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Jon: "Do you think I'll be rich someday?" Garfield: "Well, Jon, in this crazy day and age anything could happen, except that, of course. (Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)**

**Few things are more beautiful than a sunrise -- except when you're waiting for the kids to come home. (Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)**

**The giant coral reef that shouldn't exist: Most of the world's reefs are confined to crystal clear, tropical waters, where corals that rely on photosynthetic algae are drenched in sunlight. But scientists have discovered a startling exception to this rule: a 600-mile-long, undetected coral reef in the dark, muddy waters of Brazil's northern coast where the sediment-rich Amazon River flows into the Atlantic Ocean. "We found a reef where the textbooks said there shouldn't be one," the study's co-author, Fabiano Thompson, tells National Geographic. The mouth of the Amazon, which is deprived of light and oxygen and is dark brown with silt, was the last place scientists expected to find a vibrant reef system. Chasing scattered reports hinting at the reef's existence, however, researchers in Brazil dredged small areas of the seafloor and found 61 species of sponge (including one weighing hundreds of pounds), 73 types of fish, 35 species of algae, 26 soft corals, and 12 stony corals. "We brought up the most amazing animals I've ever seen on an expedition like this," says University of Georgia researcher Patricia Yager. The reef -- which spans 3,700 square miles along South America's continental shelf -- also is home to unique microbes that apparently base their metabolism on minerals and chemicals like ammonia and nitrogen -- not sunlight. Exploration of the Brazilian reef has only just begun, but scientists say it would appear to be a unique ecosystem. (The Week magazine, May 13, 2016)**

**Most people have a desire to look at the exception instead of the desire to become exceptional. *(John C. Maxwell, in Developing the Leader Within You)***

**Man wants every machine to be perfect, except the bathroom scale. (Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)**

**Another six-year-old boy, asked how he liked his first day of school, replied: "All right -- except there was some lady there that talked all the time." (Rick Rose, in Reader's Digest)**

**The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)**

**Nobody's perfect, except when filling out a job application. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The only thing more disturbing than a neighbor with a noisy old car is a neighbor with a quiet new one. (Los Angeles Times Syndicate)**

**People usually get what’s coming to them -- unless it’s been mailed. *(Quoted in Grit magazine)***

**Computers can figure out all kinds of problems, except the things in the world that just don’t add up. *(James Magary)***

**An urban park ranger shouted directions over a megaphone at the Central Park finish line of the Manufacturers Hanover Corporate Challenge, a rate with some 8000 runners representing more than 600 New York corporations. "All runners continue forward to the water-and-soda-stations," the ranger said authoritatively. "Except Citibank runners. I want to talk to you about my account." (R. B. Plunkett, in New York Sunday News Magazine)**

**A man told how things are when his wife's away: "The whole house seems so empty. Except the sink -- that's full of dishes." (Earl Wilson, Field Newspaper Syndicate)**

**There is no exception to the rule that every rule has an exception. *(James Thurber)***

**It is my heart-warming and world embracing Christmas hope and aspiration that all of us -- the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the admired, the despised, the loved, the hated, the civilized, the savage -- may eventually be gathered together in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss -- except the inventor of the telephone. (Mark Twain, 1890 Christmas prayer)**

**Public notice in the New York Times: "To my lovely wife, M. Thank you for 50 wonderful years of married life together -- except for the argument we had in 1935 in which you were obviously wrong. Love, husband M. B." (Reader's Digest)**

**All the world loves a lover -- except those who are waiting to use the phone. (Quote magazine)**

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