



## Bad Advice - Volume 1

Dr Lionel Hartley, Editor

Bad advice, stupid words/actions and unhelpful non-handy hints  
contributed by readers of Dr Hartley's books,  
attendees at his seminars or

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(Fools rush in where fools have been before)

Warning: These tips should not be tried at home, especially  
if you are in a hurry. Your editor makes no liability  
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# Bad Advice 1

Lionel Hartley



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or anyone in-between. Your editor makes no guarantees or warranties regarding  
them nor the ethics of using them, and cannot take responsibility for any  
adverse outcomes, which are most likely to occur if you follow them.

Lowell D. Streiker has said, "Accept good advice gracefully — as long as it  
doesn't interfere with what you intended to do in the first place."

Warning: None of the advice printed on these cards are good advice.

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A bus carrying five passengers was hit by a car in St. Louis, but by the time police arrived on the scene, fourteen pedestrians had boarded the bus and had begun to complain of whiplash injuries and back pain.

- Editor's archives



A company trying to continue its five-year perfect safety record showed its workers a film aimed at encouraging the use of safety goggles on the job. According to Industrial Machinery News, the film's depiction of gory industrial accidents was so graphic that twenty-five workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room. Thirteen others fainted, and one man required seven stitches after he cut his head falling off a chair while watching the film.

- Editor's archives



A convict broke out of jail in Washington DC, then a few days later accompanied his girlfriend to her trial for robbery. At lunch, he went out for a sandwich. She needed to see him, and thus had him paged. Police officers recognized his name and arrested him as he returned to the courthouse in a car he had stolen over the lunch hour.

- Editor's archives



“After a short commercial break, I’ll introduce you to Kansas City’s latest murder victim.”

- WDAF-TV news anchor



A fisherman in Kiev on 25 May 1999 electrocuted himself while fishing in the river Tereblya. The 43-year-old man connected cables to the main power supply of his home, and trailed the end into the river. The electric shock killed the fish, which floated belly-up to the top of the water. The man waded in to collect his catch, neglecting to remove the live wire, and tragically suffered the same fate as the fish. In an ironic twist, the man was fishing for a morning meal to commemorate the first anniversary of his mother-in-law's death.

- Editor's archives



A Guru promised a scholar a revelation of greater consequence than anything contained in the scriptures.

When the scholar eagerly asked for it, the Guru said, "Go out into the rain and raise your head and arms heavenward. That will bring you the first revelation."

The next day the scholar came to report: "I followed your advice and water flowed down my neck-And I felt like a perfect fool."

"Well," said the Guru, "for the first day that's quite a revelation, isn't it?"

- Anthony de Mello, *The Prayer of the Frog Part One*, 1987





A Los Angeles man who later said he was “tired of walking,” stole a steamroller and led police on a 5 mph chase until an officer stepped aboard and brought the vehicle to a stop.

- Editor's archives



“A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls.”

- Governor George W. Bush



Always keep a pound of lard in your pocket so that if you get your head stuck in railings you'll be able to grease your ears and slide out.

- Kate Emblen, Uxbridge



A married couple was returning from the funeral of Uncle George who had lived with them for twenty years and had been such a nuisance that he almost succeeded in wrecking their marriage.

"There is something I have to say to you, dear." said the man. "If it hadn't been for my love for you I wouldn't have put up with your Uncle George for a single day."

"My Uncle George!" she exclaimed in horror. "I thought he was your Uncle George!"

- Anthony de Mello, The Prayer of the Frog Part One, 1987



A man in Johannesburg, South Africa, shot his 49-year-old friend in the face, seriously wounding him, while the two practiced shooting beer cans off each other's head.

- Editor's archives



A man walked into a Circle-K store in Louisiana, put a \$20 bill on the counter and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? Fifteen dollars. The store owner asked, "If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?"

- Editor's Archives



A man was walking down a street with blisters on both of his ears. A friend asked him what had happened to cause the blisters.

"My wife left her hot iron on, so when the phone rang I picked the iron up by mistake."

"Yes, but what about the other ear?"

"The caller called back!"

- Anthony de Mello, *The Prayer of the Frog Part One*, 1987



An hedgehog trained to scuttle up and down the table from guest to guest makes an unusual mobile cheese and pineapple cube nibble dispenser at cocktail parties.  
- L Traintu, Clarkesville





A Polish Newspaper in Czestochowa reported that small two-seater Cessna 152 plane crashed into a cemetery early that afternoon in central Poland. The newspaper went on to say that Polish search and rescue workers have recovered 300 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the evening.

- Editor's Archives



A person in Birmingham, Alabama, dials 911 from her mobile 'phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher. "They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, and even the accelerator!" she cries.

The 911 dispatcher says, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way. He will be there in two minutes."

Before the police get to the crime scene, however, the 911 dispatcher's telephone rings a second time, and the same person is on the line again "Never mind," giggles the lady, "I got in the back seat by mistake."

- Editor's Archives



As adverts on the television tell us not to use light switches if we smell gas, I find it useful to always have a candle ready for use in such emergencies.

- Mrs D. Bibby Rugby



Australian Statistics:

31 Australians have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

19 Australians have died in the last 3 years by eating Christmas decorations they believed were chocolate.

Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker pulling incidents.

101 Australians since 1997 have had to have broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.

18 Australians had serious burns in 1998 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 Australians were admitted to casualty in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth or eye socket.

5 Australians were injured last year in accidents involving out of control Scalextric™ cars.

Continued next card ->



3 Australians die each year testing if a 9V battery works on their tongue.

142 Australians were injured in 1998 by not removing all the pins from new shirts.

58 Australians are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

8 Australians cracked their skull in 1997 after falling asleep (passing out) while throwing up into the toilet.

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1999 Report



Avoid jet lag by simply taking an earlier flight, thus arriving fully refreshed and on time.

- Sgt. R. J. Crowe, 662 Squadron. Germany



Avoid losing contact lenses by drilling a small hole in each one and attaching them with a length of nylon fishing line. This can then be worn around the neck.  
- B Morgan, Criccieth



Avoid paying tax by going to work in a politically unstable Middle East country inhabited by religious fanatics. Ignore British Government advice to leave when a war looks imminent, then moan a few weeks later when bombs start going off and there aren't any planes home.

- S Goblin, Middlesex





Can't afford contact lenses? Simply cut out small circles of cling film and press them into your eyes.

- D. Stokes, Middlesex



“China is a big country, inhabited by many Chinese.”

- Former French President Charles De Gaulle



Create instant designer stubble by sucking a magnet and then dipping your chin into a bowl of iron filings.

- B Villbens, Birmingham



Bleach is an ideal substitute for alcohol, and far less pricey. It gives any cocktail a bit of 'oomph'.

- James Francis, Patient, Intensive Care Ward, East Glamorgan Hospital



Erecting the very latest equipment, Texaco workmen set about drilling for oil at Lake Peigneur in Louisiana during November 1980.

After only a few hours of drilling they sat back expecting oil to shoot up.

Instead, however, they watched a whirlpool form, sucking down not only the entire 1,300-acre lake, but also 5 houses, 9 barges, 8 tug boats, 2 oil rigs, a mobile home, most of a botanical garden and ten percent of nearby Jefferson island, leaving a half-mile crater.

No-one had told them that there was an abandoned salt mine underneath.

- Editor's archives



Exterior wood stain is a fast, long-lasting and attractive alternative to sun-bed treatments.

- Mr T. Eebly, Warstead



Fish are supposed to be brain food, and yet people eat it on Friday and then do the silliest things over the weekend.

- Bob Phillips



“For NASA, space is still a high priority.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 5 September 1993





From an actual courtroom transcript: Question: (Showing man picture.) That's you? Answer: Yes, sir. Question: And you were present when the picture was taken, right?

- Lowell D. Streiker



Girls! Next time you feel like throwing a ball over-arm, don't, because you can't and it just looks silly. Just throw it girlie underarm style, and no-one will laugh at you or get hurt.

- D. Thresher, Wapping



“Half this game is ninety percent mental.”

- Philadelphia Phillies Professional Baseball Team manager Danny Ozark



"I am not part of the problem. I am a Republican"  
- Governor George W. Bush



"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change."

- Governor George W. Bush 22 May 1998



“I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves.”

- John Wayne



"If affirmative action means what I just described, what I'm for, then I'm for it."

- Governor George W. Bush, St. Louis, Mo., 18 October 2000



"If you let that sort of thing go on, your bread and butter will be cut right out from under your feet."

- Former British foreign minister Ernest Bevin





"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."

- George W. Bush, Jr.



“I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr.



“I haven’t committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law”

- David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.



"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix."  
- Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle



“I’m not going to have some reporters pawing through our papers. We are the president.”

- Hillary Clinton commenting on the release of subpoenaed documents



In Arkansas, it seems this guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

- Editor's archives



In New York, as a female shopper exited a convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran.

The clerk called 911 immediately and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher.

Within minutes, the police had apprehended the snatcher.

They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID.

To which he replied "Yes, Officer .... that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

- Editor's archives



I regularly drive to the pub, but am never guilty of drink driving. The secret is to consume so much alcohol that by closing time you have completely forgotten ever owning a car.

- Mike Grey, Essex





“I stand by all the misstatements that I’ve made.”  
- Governor George W. Bush, Jr. to Sam Donaldson



"I think we ought to raise the age at which juveniles can have a gun."  
- Governor George W. Bush



"[I t's] time for the human race to enter the solar system."

- Governor George W. Bush



"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."

- Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, repeated verbatim by Governor George W. Bush, Jr.



"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."  
- Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward



“Mars is essentially in the same orbit... Mars is somewhat the same distance from the Sun, which is very important. We have seen pictures where there are canals, we believe, and water. If there is water, that means there is oxygen. If oxygen, that means we can breathe.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 11 October 1994



Minor skin grafts can be performed on pigs by covering any cuts and grazes with thin strips of bacon.

- Phil Wasey, Liverpool



[Mr. Parker reads a side of the box with the prize that he won]

Mr. Parker: Fra-gee-lay. That must be Italian.

Mrs. Parker: Uh, I think that says FRAGILE, dear.

Mr. Parker: Oh, yeah.

- From the movie film: A Christmas Story (1983)





“Mr. Vice President, in all due respect, it is — I’m not sure 80 percent of the people get the death tax. I know this: 100 percent will get it if I’m the president.”

- Governor George W. Bush



“Natural gas is hemispheric. I like to call it hemispheric in nature because it is a product that we can find in our neighbourhoods.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Austin, Texas, 20 December 2000



“One word sums up probably the responsibility of any Governor, and that one word is ‘to be prepared’.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 16 December 1993



On 15 July 1999 in Alabama, a 25-year-old man died of injuries sustained from a 3-story fall, precipitated by his attempt to spit farther than his buddy.

His plan was to hurl himself towards a metal guardrail while expectorating, in order to add momentum to his saliva.

In a tragic miscalculation, his momentum carried him right over the railing, which he caught hold of for a few moments before his grip slipped, sending him plummeting 24 feet to the cement below.

- Editor's archives



“Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.”

- Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, D.C.



Pass off as Welsh by putting coal dust behind your fingernails and talking gibberish all the time, stopping occasionally to sing loudly, or set fire to someone else's house.

- Mr P. Lilburn, Rotherham



“People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr.



Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine.

The message "He's lying" was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn't telling the truth.

Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed.

- Editor's archives





Police in Wichita, Kansas, arrested a 22-year-old man at an airport hotel after he tried to pass two (counterfeit) \$16 bills.

- Editor's archives



Pop a few tea bags in your hot water tank and you can make a hot cuppa anytime by just turning on the tap.

- Mrs M Growitt, Birmingham



Prevent crisps cutting your gums and getting caught between teeth by soaking them in a bowl of water before eating them.

- G. M. Jackson, York



“Public speaking is very easy.”

- Governor George W .Bush, Jr. to reporters in October 1999



Put a stop to car thieves by siphoning off all your petrol whenever you park your car, and carrying it round with you in one or two plastic buckets.

- D. Griffiths, Kent



Putting just the right amount of gin in your goldfish bowl makes the fishes' eyes bulge and causes them to swim in an amusing manner.

- Contributor's name withheld upon request



Question: How do you recognise an idiot at an airport?

Answer: That's the person throwing bread at the aeroplanes.

- Editor's archives



Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

- Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest





Question: Why do you beat your head against the wall?

Answer: Because it feels good when I stop!

- Anonymous



“Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children.”  
- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 18 September 1995



Record the sound of your wife talking, and then whisper quietly and listen to the tape through headphones next time you need to tell her something important.

That way you can have a conversation without bothering her.

- Frank Wilson, Southend (adapted)



“Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but can’t remember what they are.”

- Matt Lauer on NBC's Today show



“Republicans understand the importance of bondage between mother and child.”  
- Governor George W Bush



“Smoking kills. If you’re killed, you’ve lost a very important part of your life.”  
- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign



“Stupidity got us into this mess. Why can't it get us out?”

- Relayed by a seminar attendee relating what his boss at work had asked him.  
(January 1995)



Swedish business consultant Ulf af Trolle laboured 13 years on a book about Swedish economic solutions.

He took the 250-page manuscript to be copied, only to have it reduced to thousands of strips of paper in seconds when a worker confused the copier with the shredder.

- Editor's archives





“That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I’m just the one to do it.”

- A congressional candidate in Texas



The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 8:50am, flashed a gun and demanded cash.

The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order.

When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast.

The man, frustrated, walked away.

- Editor's archives



The Chico City Council in California enacted a ban on nuclear weapons, setting a \$500 fine for anyone detonating one within city limits.

- Editor's archives



The company where I work services cargo access equipment on ships.

After each service job, a report must be filed listing the ship's name, location, and summary of the work performed.

One of our service engineers was writing his report on a recent job, but was unsure of the ship's name. His boss told him to read the name off the stern of the ship.

The report came back with the ship name listed as: "Beware of Propeller."  
- Nikki Scarlett



“The government is not doing enough about cleaning up the environment. This is a good planet.”

- Mr. New Jersey contestant when asked what he would do with a million dollars.



"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history.

I mean in this century's history.

But we all lived in this century.

I didn't live in this century."

- Governor George W. Bush, 15 September 1995



“They’re multipurpose. Not only do they put the clips on, but they take them off.”

- Pratt & Whitney spokesperson explaining why the company charged the Air Force nearly \$1000 for an ordinary pair of pliers.



Thicken up runny low-fat yoghurt by stirring in a spoonful of lard.

- P Raker, Chatham





Top ten things a consultant should always tell a client

10. That was my first guess as well ... but then I really thought about it.

09. You should see the hotel I'm staying at!

08. Hey - I just realised that I was just starting high school when you started working here.

07. I like this office space. I'll have them put me in here when you're gone.

06. My rental car looks nicer than that old rust-bucket you're driving.

05. Sure it'll work - I learned it in business school.

04. So what do you need me to tell you?

03. Of course it's right; the spreadsheet says so!

02. I could just tell you the answer now - except we're committed to a three-month project.

01. What 'are' you, then? Stupid?

- Anonymous seminar attendee



Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck.

Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck.

Scared, they left the scene and drove home.

With the chain still attached to the machine.

With their bumper still attached to the chain.

With their vehicle's Kentucky license plate still attached to the bumper.

- Editor's Archives



“We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur.”  
- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 22 September 1997



“We have a firm commitment to NATO, we are a part of NATO.

We have a firm commitment to Europe.

We are a part of Europe.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr.



“We’re going to have the best educated American people in the world.”  
- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 21 September 97



“We’re going to turn this team around 360 degrees.”

- Jason Kidd, upon his drafting to the Dallas Mavericks



“What a waste it is to lose one’s mind.

Or not to have a mind is being very wasteful.

How true that is.”

- Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle at a fundraising event for the United Negro College Fund.

(He was attempting to quote the line “a mind is a terrible thing to waste”.)



“Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can’t help but cry.

I mean I’d love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff.”

- Mariah Carey





“When I have been asked during these last weeks who caused the riots and the killing in L.A., my answer has been direct and simple: Who is to blame for the riots? The rioters are to blame. Who is to blame for the killings? The killers are to blame.”

- Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle on the complex social issues behind the Los Angeles Riots.



When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan, refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police.

They still refused, so the robber called the police and was arrested.

- Editor's archives



“Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind.”  
- General William Westmoreland



“Verbosity leads to unclear, inarticulate things.”

- Governor George W. Bush, Jr., 30 November 1996



Finally, Some more wisdom:

1) I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.

2) Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid doing altogether.

3) Everyone has a right to be stupid. Some just abuse the privilege.

4) On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.

5) Please, Lord, let me prove that winning the lottery won't spoil me.

6) Does vacuuming count as Aerobic Exercise?

Continued next card ->



More wisdom Continued:

7) I am young at heart and slightly older in other places.

8) Time is Nature's way of making sure that everything doesn't go wrong at once.

9) The trouble with being in the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

10) People who keep dogs are cowards who haven't got the fortitude to bite people themselves.

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

Continued next card ->



More wisdom Continued:

12) There's no speed limit on the Information Superhighway.

13) It is much easier to apologise than to ask permission.

14) There are two rules for ultimate success in life. Never tell everything you know, and

15) Do unto others ... then run.

- Editor's archives