

Student Faux Pas

Below are some interesting and entertaining false steps, or bloopers, students have made over the years. Point out the error in each sentence and explain the problem (Some require an understanding of the actual meaning of a word, while the humor of others depends on historical context).

1. Whenever my friend has the chance, she likes to see the latest movie. She just wants to relax, watch the movie, and eat snakes.
2. While some dieters are just overweight, others are a little old beast.
3. These kinds of neighbors are easily spotted because you never see them.
4. Some people have semi-erotic pets such as skunks or those huge Brazilian parrots.
5. Going to college helps one develop a lot of self a steam.
6. I told him not to, but my boyfriend gave me a peck on the check. I never really expedited him to do that.
7. I heard it through the great vine.
8. Driving down town was awful; the traffic was bupper to bupper.
9. The altitude in Colorado can get very high, and that is why the sun is hotter there than it is in Houston.
10. When I was working at that restaurant, I was serving and busting six full tables at the same time.
11. Have you ever thought about how the common bald point pen works?
12. Pollution in Hong Kong is caused by the exhausted gases of automobiles.
13. Before the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy, gun control was not important.
14. The Mark IV was not what it was crapped up to be.
15. There are a number of obvious symptoms of cocaine use. The psychological symptoms are characterized by intense anxiety, depression, confusion, and hallucinations, especially fornication (the conviction that ants are crawling under one's skin).
16. When a child comes home from school, he will more than likely throw himself down on the coach in front of the T V for the next couple of hours.

17. The most popular TV shows today are crime shows, comedies, and soap boppers.
18. The law does not consider someone alive at the time of contraception.
19. The English language is being ruined by old tire phrases.
20. She was a spare of the moment and spontaneous woman.
21. Cowboys wear big hats and boots and are all bold-legged.
22. An unusual clam descended on Mexico City.
23. Love is a double edged sore.
24. In his essay "Death and Justice," Mayor Koch explains the emotionless feelings of the murderers.
25. The newest computer mouse is really great. It's like taking a nice troll on a deserted beach with absolutely no hindrance.
26. Pappasito's has small candles lit on their tables. Marcos', on the other hand, has big, bulky lambs falling from the ceiling. This doesn't give the place a sense of comfort.
27. Stopping illegal immigration will put an end to a viscous cycle that is unjust and dangerous to the illegal aliens themselves.
28. I always thought abortion was immortal.
29. The term *laissez faire* means loose rein.
30. The author says that English should be the official language of the United States: this false statement can be proven.
31. Roderick Usher died in an unusual manor.
32. A common theme in poetry is cease the day.
33. For Browning, it was paramount that an individual strive to develop moral, spiritual, and facial life.
34. In this poem, Blake has bobbed the reader's mind.
35. Frost's poem is written in bland verse.
36. A Shakespearian sonnet has 14 lines of iambic pentameter.

37. Willa Cather graduated valid Victorian from her high school.
38. Ralph Ellison received honorary doctrines from several universities.
39. Rome became a great military power, but the Romans first had to fight a series of punitive wars.
40. Theme is the jest of the story.