

Table of Contents

1. Garbled Grammar.....	<i>Sentence Structure</i>	1
2. Both Sides	<i>Critical Thinking</i>	3
3. License Plate Statements.....	<i>Writing a Paragraph</i>	5
4. Sentiments of a Surly Sage	<i>Declarative and Imperative Sentences</i>	8
5. Clutter	<i>Run-On Sentences</i>	10
6. Getting a Fortune.....	<i>Writing Complete Sentences</i>	13
7. Can You Make Sense of It?	<i>Spoonerism</i>	15
8. Genuine Phonies	<i>Oxymoron</i>	18
9. Will It Go in Reverse?	<i>Proverb</i>	21
10. Can You Explain It?	<i>Ambiguous Statements</i>	24
11. Two Plus One	<i>Critical Thinking</i>	27
12. Cool Art.....	<i>Epigrams</i>	31
13. Exhausted or Refreshed?.....	<i>Describing Reactions</i>	34
14. Smelly Orchids and Horned Mice	<i>Newspaper Article</i>	36
15. Do You See the Connection?	<i>Newspaper Story</i>	39
16. Have You Noticed?	<i>Short Report</i>	42
17. Ads.....	<i>Writing an Advertisement</i>	44
18. A Letter from Slugger.....	<i>Friendly Letter</i>	47
19. Advice for Bored Children.....	<i>Writing an Anecdote</i>	50
20. And Then	<i>Tall Tale</i>	53
21. Hold It!	<i>Critical Thinking</i>	56
22. Life Story	<i>Biographical Sketch</i>	58
23. Working Initially	<i>Creative Naming</i>	61
24. Magic Hat	<i>Writing a Short Story</i>	64
25. Call It Courage.....	<i>Writing a Short Story</i>	66
26. Timing Is Everything	<i>Writing a Short Story</i>	69
27. Animal Monikers	<i>Writing a Short Story</i>	72
28. Funny Looking Cats.....	<i>Writing a Limerick</i>	75
29. Lights Above	<i>Writing a Free Verse</i>	79
30. A Dog Is	<i>Writing a Free Verse</i>	81
31. Like a Butterfly.....	<i>Writing a Cinquain</i>	83
32. Monsters in the Night.....	<i>Personal Essay</i>	86
33. 4-H.....	<i>Personal Essay</i>	89
34. Crazy Questions	<i>Communication Problems</i>	92
35. From Haiku to Tanka	<i>Haiku and Tanka</i>	95

BOTH SIDES

Mr. Ling didn't usually accompany his wife shopping, but on this particular Monday, he thought he'd be sociable and go to the city's big department store with her. A 24-hour storewide sale for special customers was going on, and Mrs. Ling wanted to buy "one or two things." Since his wife was an avid shopper, Mr. Ling also wanted to keep an eye on the sales receipts.



Arriving only an hour before the end of the sale (Mr. Ling had purposely delayed their departure for as long as he could), the couple approached a display. Mrs. Ling saw a very attractive blouse and picked out her size. She reached into her purse but, to her dismay, found that she had forgotten the coupon that would allow her to get a 20 percent discount. Going back home was out of the question, because it was a 30-minute drive to their house. Mrs. Ling was very upset.

As fate would have it, just as his wife was about to leave the store, Mr. Ling glanced down and saw an envelope on the floor, just like the one his wife had forgotten. Opening it, he saw that a coupon was inside. Mrs. Ling could now buy whatever she wanted at a 20 percent discount. For Mr. Ling, finding the coupon was indeed a mixed blessing.

Why? _____

You have probably had a few experiences similar to Mr. Ling's, when an apparent stroke of good luck had some elements that weren't so fortunate. Examine the following situations and tell how they could be considered mixed blessings.

1. Being given a dog with a pedigree _____
2. Being extremely good-looking _____
3. Winning the lottery _____
4. Striking oil in your backyard _____
5. Being awarded a scholarship by a nearby college _____
6. Being famous _____

Now it's your turn. In the space below, list three other "mixed blessings" that could seem wonderful at first and turn out not to be so great after all.
