

COLD CROCK? DOODLESS?

Last week in “Pennies” I wrote about how difficult it can be to speak the English language. We take English in school and it was always my favorite subject.

Back in my day, we used to diagram sentences. We would draw lines for the subject, predicate and descriptive words. Then we would take the words from the sentence and put it where it belonged on the lines.

We actually had races between students to see who could diagram a sentence the quickest. I will say I was pretty good at it, mainly because I love words and talking, which of course goes hand-in-hand.

I still get teased about the way I pronounce some of the words that I use. I get told, “That is not how you pronounce it. That is not even a word.”

For instance, I always say “cold-crocked.” I believe the word means to hit someone in the head with a “cold crock or a crock dish.” That is the way my grandparents said the word and explained the meaning to me.

One day after using that word in my writing, I was told the word is not cold-crock but cold-cock [to hit someone very hard: to knock out someone with a hard punch]! I am still arguing about which is correct and continue to use the term cold-crock.

Another word I have been corrected on is the word doodless. Doodless means you just doodle around and accomplish nothing, therefore, the term doodless.

I have been informed there is no such word as doodless. It is actually doless. Now, it is too late to change my ways and say the words differently if there is no such word. But, much to the dismay of my editor, I will continue to use them anyway. [Note from said Editor: Doless is in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary; it is an adjective that means "lacking energy or ambition: shiftless." Literally, do + less.]

When I was growing up my grandma was very strict on language. We were not even allowed to say gosh or darn. I grew up thinking these were cuss words.

Since I love to have fun with words, certain ones come to mind and what they could mean. They are defined as daffy-nations, because the way they are defined will make you stop and think a little. Look at these words and see if you can understand their daffy-nations:

1. ARBITRATOR - A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.
2. AVOIDABLE - What a bullfighter tries to do.
3. BERNADETTE - The act of torching a mortgage.
4. BURGLARIZE - (a good one) It is what a crook sees with.
5. CONTROL - A short, ugly inmate ... (get it?)
6. COUNTERFEITERS - Workers who put together kitchen cabinets (counter fitters).
7. ECLIPSE - What an English barber does for a living (he clips).

8. EYEDROPPER - A clumsy ophthalmologist.
9. HEROES - What a guy in a boat does.
10. LEFTBANK - What the robber did when his bag was full of money.
11. MISTY - How golfers create divots.
12. PARADOX - Two physicians.
13. PARASITES - What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.
14. PHARMACIST - A helper on the farm.
15. POLARIZE - What penguins see with.
16. PRIMATE - Removing your spouse from in front of the TV.
17. RELIEF - What trees do in the spring.
18. RUBBERNECK - What you do to relax your wife.
19. SELFISH - What the owner of a seafood store does.

20. SUDAFED - Brought litigation against a government official.

If spoken a little slower you might see where they these words sound like they mean something else.

Aren't words fun to play around with? Have you ever had your mouth washed out with soap? Have you ever heard of the words cold-crock or doodless?

Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.