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## J.E.T.T.C A P A D E S

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**Dr. Karl Compton** of M.I.T. tells about the time his sister lived in India and hired a native electrician to do some work in her home. But the man kept coming to her for instructions concerning how to do this and that. Finally, exasperated, she said, "You know what has to be done. Why not just go ahead and use your common sense?" "Madam," said the young Indian with becoming gravity, "common sense is a gift of God, and I have only a technical education."

**Aldous Huxley** once remarked, "Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards."

**A foreigner**, after sitting in the visitors' gallery at Congress, said, "The American Congress is strange—a man gets up and speaks and says nothing. Nobody listens—then everybody disagrees with him."

**A small boy**, asked to name the first man, promptly replied, "George Washington." When he was reminded of Adam, the youngster replied, "Oh, I didn't think you were counting foreigners."

**An American tourist**, gazing down into the crater of a Greek volcano, said, "It looks like Hell." "You Americans, you have been everywhere," said the Greek.

**During a debate in the French Chamber of Deputies**, one of the members was pleading for laws that would liberalize the legal standing of women. "After all," cried out the speaker, "there is very little difference between men and women." The entire Chamber of Deputies arose as one man and shouted out fervently, "Vive la difference!"

**A Soviet citizen** died and went to Hell. The Devil told him he could take his choice between the Hell for capitalists or the Communists. "I'll take the Communist section," the new arrival said, "There's sure to be a fuel shortage there."

**A German** was fishing on the west side of a river in Germany, and a Russian was fishing directly opposite him on the east side of the river. The German was catching plenty of fish; the Russian, none. "How come you catch so many fish?" asked the Russian. "Because," said the German on the western side of the river, "the fish over here are not afraid to open their mouths."

**A tired and thirsty American** entered a hotel in Madrid, desiring a glass of milk, but knew not a word of Spanish. The waiter knew no English. So the traveler made signs, and the waiter came back with a glass of wine. No, that was not what he wanted. Then the American drew a crude picture of a cow to indicate milk. The waiter came back with a ticket for the next bullfight.

**A man mistook an insane asylum** for a college. When his error was pointed out to him, he said to the guard, "Well, I don't suppose there's much difference." "There's a big difference, Mister," said the guard. "Here you have to show improvement before you get out."

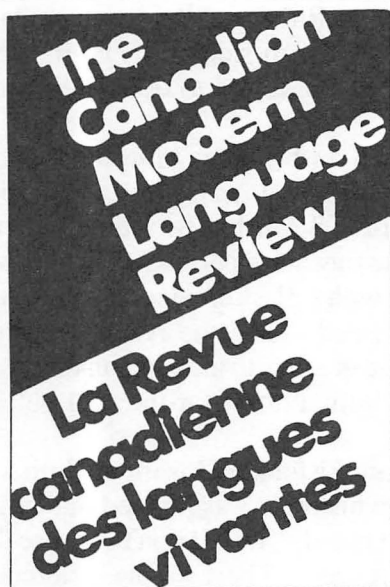
**If a typesetter must make errors**, it was appropriate that one of them, setting a story about a man seeking a divorce, made it read that the plaintiff asked the court for a change of Venus. (Found in the *Buffalo Evening News*)

**Four philologists** were walking through town when they were solicited by several hussies. The scholars, ignoring the overtures, wondered how best to describe the group of girls. One suggested, "A jam of tarts." "How about a flourish of strumpets?" said the second man. "Or an essay of Trollops," added the third philologist. The fourth man hesitated, then offered, "An anthology of pros." To which Conrad Aiken has added, "A pride of loins."

**The dangers of communication** are illustrated by the man who encounters a friend and says, "I hear your brother has just left Penn State and is now living in the Park Central." "Well, it's not quite like that. My brother just left the State pen and is living in Central Park."

**Spoonerisms**, the transposition of the initial sounds of words that result in a laughable combination, are named after the Reverend W.A. Spooner (1844-1930), an English cleric addicted to this unconscious humor. It was he who said, "We all know what it is to have a half-warmed fish within us" (meaning "a half-formed wish"); and "Yes, indeed, the Lord is a shoving leopard"; and "Ingkering Kongs their titles take."

He once asked a waitress for a "glass bun and a bath of milk." Intending to rebuke the congregation for its small attendance and to refer to the "weary benches," instead he said, "I am tired of addressing these beery wenches." Perhaps the most famous spoonerism of all is: "Mardon me, Padam, but I am afraid that you are occupewing the wrong pie. May I sew you to another sheet?"



**Anthony S. Mollica**  
Editor

Linguistic and pedagogical articles, book reviews, current advertisements and other material of interest to teachers of French, English, German, Italian and Spanish, as second languages at all levels of instruction as well as to teachers of Heritage languages.

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## J.E.T.T. TEST

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**1. Because viewers are less and less satisfied with television, they are watching less and less of it.**

1. False. Viewers are more and more dissatisfied with television, but according to *Channels* magazine, they are watching about as much of it as ever: about seven hours per day. What they are doing about their dissatisfaction with television is to use their remote controls to switch channels.

**2. Libraries with “machine-readable collections” where the general public can access hundreds of different software titles, and researchers have access to materials stored on laser videodiscs are beginning to appear in major American cities.**

2. False. There is only one such “library of tomorrow” dedicated to studying the design, structure and documentation of software where one can find such works as the *Oxford English Dictionary* on CD-Rom—the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

**3. Next year, 1990, laser printers will be using something besides a laser as light source, and hence, print at a much higher resolution than is practical with lasers.**

3. True. Engineers at Westinghouse have developed a thin-film electroluminescent edge emitter, a solid state device made of zinc sulfide—a device smaller and less trouble-prone than lasers because it has no mirrors or other moving parts.

**4. Even the education or “learning” channels available via a satellite dish are now being scrambled and are unavailable to dish owners without descramblers.**

4. False. Access to a satellite dish means access to over a 100 channels. While it is true that a number of the more popular entertainment, movie, sports, news, music, and special events channels have been “scrambled,” it is also true

that there are still many “unscrambled” channels, especially those offering educational programming. Among those offering educational programming are C-Span (since 1979 offering live coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives ) and C-Span II (since 1986 offering live coverage of the Senate). Readers with dishes can get C-Span on Galaxy III, transponder 24 and C-Span II on Galaxy II, transponder 14. The only network of its kind, the Silent Network, offers programming using sign language, open caption and voice for the deaf. Readers with dishes can tune in the Silent Network on Satcom F4, transponder 23. For those of our readers who wish to take courses for credit, the NTU (National Technological University) channel offers over 34 credit courses from 21 participating universities as well as short courses, workshops, and seminars. It is possible to obtain an MA via this set up. A catalogue of academic programs is available. Address inquiries to NTU, P.O. Box 700, Fort Collins, CO 80522 or call (303) 484-6050. Tune in NTU via Ku-band on GSTAR 1, transponder 17.

**5. People are not using the videophone; it will not be one of the “mainstream” technologies in the near future.**

5. False. Currently, over 50,000 people are conversing by videophone, and Venture Development—a firm that measures trends—confidently predicts an annual growth rate of 68%, leading to over 1 million videophones in use by 1993.

**6. The Chinese have embraced the VCR. Over a dozen factories in China are producing VCRs from kits supplied by Goldstar.**

6. True. Although the \$2,000 price tag is equivalent to several years’ pay for the average Chinese worker, VCRs are *the* item in department stores. About half the homes in Beijing and Shanghai have 13-inch color TVs.

**7. Showing up in Japan without your business card amounts to a cultural snafu.**

7. True. Presenting business cards is so “in” in Japan that not to do so verges on being disrespectful.

**8. You do not need a visa to go to Taiwan.**

8. False. You do.

**9. Although the Avon produce, Skin So Soft, is one of the most effective insect repellents, the company does not know why this is so.**

9. True. Introduced in 1962 and researched by Avon ever since then, Skin So Soft’s insect repelling abilities remain a mystery. What is not mysterious is that it is the best-selling bath oil in the U.S.

**10. Although copyright is the ownership in a creative work, to be copyrightable, a work does not need to be set down in visible or recorded form.**

10. False. A work must be in a visible or recorded form to be copyrightable. Ideas cannot be copyrighted. A visible expression of them, however, is copyrightable. If you fail to copyright a work you have created at the time you create it, you forever lose the right to control it or share in its profits.

**11. For a copyright to be valid, the creator must register the work with the Copyright Office in Washington, D.C.**

11. False. Copyright happens at the moment a work is created and set down in visible or recorded form. The copyright notice on every copy of the work is the legal formality or requirement of copyright. The notice must contain “copyright,” the year of creation, and name of the creator. However, if you have to sue someone for copyright infringement, you cannot do so until you have registered your copyright. Copyright forms are available from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559.

**12. Videotape dropouts—glitches and streaks—are the result of mediocre or poor tape quality.**

12. False. Dust and dirt in the air at the manufacturing plant are the real culprits of dropout.

**13. For video recordings that are meant to last “forever,” PRO or CAMERA Grade, that is, the most densely packed, smoothest, and highest quality tape must be used.**

13. True. The PRO or CAMERA Grade, namely, the best grade, holds up best, especially under rigorous editing, over time. For example, a standard grade tape may have a surface roughness (determined by how densely magnetic particles are packed) of 200 micrometers, whereas a top-of-the-line grade has a surface roughness of 7 micrometers.

**14. Multi-standard VCRs and TVs are not authorized by their manufacturers to be sold to consumers in the U.S.**

14. True. The Consumer Electronics Division of video manufacturers will flatly tell you that they don’t sell multi-standard equipment. In some instances, their industrial divisions may be authorized to sell such equipment. Multi-standard equipment is available from specialty stores in major metropolitan areas. Companies manufacturing multi-standard equipment include Sharp, Hitachi, Toshiba, Panasonic, JVC, Phillips, Sony, and NEC.

**15. NTSC, SECAM, and PAL—there are numerous subsystems—are the major TV systems in use around the world today.**

15. True. NTSC is used in North and Central America and Japan; SECAM is used in France, Russia, and Eastern Europe; PAL is used in Western Europe, India, Australia, UK, Africa and China.

**16. Multi-standard video equipment can be found on Air Force 1, the presidential jet.**

17. True. The equipment: Instant Replay’s World Traveler.

**17. Japan and Europe are switching to high definition TV (HDTV) broadcasting.**

17. False. So far, Japan is experimenting with beaming down HDTV pictures from satellites (HDTV will be satellite based). No one has or is switching to HDTV broadcasting at this time.

**18. International communications satellites are used primarily to carry television programming.**

18. False. Although international communications satellites do carry sports, news, and special events television programming, such programming represents only a few percent of international satellite services and revenues.

**19. Satellites, once launched into successful orbits, can be used indefinitely.**

19. False. One of the disadvantages of satellites is that they tend to have a short life span, namely, 7 to 10 years at best.

**20. The newest development in CD technology eliminates the need for higher bit rates and oversampling by changing the digital information to a single bit before conversion to analog.**

20. True. Sansui, using the new MASH (Multistage Noise Sampling developed by Nippon Telephone & Telegraph) is offering new models utilizing MASH. Because MASH is less expensive, it will allow for better sound at lower prices. Models will be available spring or summer.

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## In the J.E.T.T.S T R E A M

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**A collection of practices and products for today's discriminating international J.E.T.T.-setters.**

### Visas, Visas Everywhere

Those of our readers planning trips this summer to Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, many of the countries in Latin America, and France (rumors have it France will drop the requirement for Americans in the near future) will need visas.

If you do not want to bother taking or mailing your passport (and assorted, necessary forms) to consulates and embassies, there are visa services who will perform such time-consuming tasks for you for a fee (\$25 per visa). Contact: Visa Advisors, 1808 Swann Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. or call them by dialing (202) 797-7976, or Visa Express, 21 East 49th Street, Suite 2107, New York, New York 10016; dial (212) 532-9436.

### You Can't Get There From Here

Readers who have traveled the countries of the Pacific Rim or who live there know that "politeness at all costs" often prompts citizens of Asian cultures not to admit "I don't know." This applies even to something as seemingly small in the great scheme of things as asking for directions.

If you are planning a trip to Tokyo, you might want to consider purchasing *Tokyo: A Bilingual Atlas* published by Kodansha International and retailing for \$14.95. This remarkable book has section-by-section maps that clearly show streets, landmarks, etc.—all identified in English and Japanese. With this atlas, visiting Tokyo will not be what it was for one of our readers: He asked for directions to a particular attraction. Of the six people asked, each gave directions that turned out to be totally different, and as it turned out, totally wrong. The attraction in question was not reachable by following any of the six sets of instructions. Even if the average Japanese does

not know where some attraction is located, he or she—by looking at the bilingual atlas can see where it is you want to go.

### Slang in the Language of Kings

J.E.T.T.setters planning trips to France this summer can learn to speak the language of Kings like the French natives do. For only \$12.95 (paperback), our interested readers can purchase *Street French* by David Burke, published by Wiley, 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158, (212) 850-6578. This clever volume promises to teach anyone "how to speak and understand French slang."

### How Are They Going to Get You Into a Hotel After You've Stayed on the Farm?

Even those of our readers who are not yet official J.E.T.T.setters have stayed in France and found hotel rooms to cost the equivalent of the proverbial "arm and a leg." Even without arm or leg, don't let hotel prices deter you from going to France this summer.

Michael Smith's illustrated French-language guide, *Vacances & Weekends à la Ferme*, describes accommodations at 1001 farms and dining at over 200 country-inn restaurants. Prices for double-room and breakfast at many of the farms listed range from \$20-\$40 per night. Practicing your French is free of charge.

Send check for \$39.00 to Librairie de France, 610 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10020 or call (212) 581-8810.

### Perestroika Pizza Supreme

For those of you who simply cannot bear the thought of going to Moscow and having to live without pizza while you are there (Russian pizza, quite frankly, defies description), perish the thought. *Americanski pizza*—New York-style—arrived in Moscow last spring. No, it's not **Pizza Hut** (although it would fit in nicely with the color scheme of Red Square) or **Pizza Inn**. It's **Astro Italian Pizza**, the one and only American pizza in Moscow.

### **You Can Be Among the First**

Those of our readers who have been in mainland China recently know that there are many areas of the country where foreign visitors are not permitted. One of these areas, the famous Yangtze River, has been off-limits to foreigners until now. For the first time ever, China's principal waterway will have a luxury cruise ship of foreign registry (The **Ocean Pearl**) ply its ancient waters.

Part of Pearl Cruises' China Dynasty 10-day cruise, the one day Yangtze River excursion is an historic event. Upcoming cruises are scheduled for June 21, August 21, September 3, 10, 23, 30, and October 13 and 20. Call 800-426-3588 or 800-338-1700 for information.

### **The Best Way to Go: Downhill**

J.E.T.T.setters, who want to plan something different, may want to try bike trips throughout France, Italy, Great Britain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, etc. Bike trips are not only different, but they are a good way to see the world on wheels.

Companies offering such trips cover from 20-30 miles per day or an average of 5-6 hours of pedaling per day. Usually, bike tour adventures take in the most interesting and scenic attractions,

via the least traveled highways and byways.

Typical tour groups have from 15 to 20 participants, ranging in age from 17-54, and two guides. Most often, several nights are spent in historic places (like chateaus transformed into hotels in Loire Valley tours, for example). Breakfasts, dinners, bikes, maps, routine instructions, guides are included in the package price. On average, more women than men go on bike tours.

Biking your way across the world via a packaged tour is not cheap. \$1600-\$2000 is not an uncommon or unusual price tag (not including airfare to France and transportation to wherever the tour begins. For example, a well-known packaged bike tour begins at Tours. You will have to pay out of pocket to get there.

Would it surprise you to know that the popularity of bike tours is growing? For information, call 800-678-2453 and you will be talking to someone at Bicycle France, 2104 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205; call (212) 874-5151 and talk to someone at Country Cycling Tours, 104 W. 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024; or how about dialing (803) 671-5939 and getting in touch with Performance Bicycle Tours, 13 Laughing Gull Road, Hilton Head, SC 29928?