



# Words Gone Wild: Puns, Puzzles, Poesy, Palaver, Persiflage, and Poppycock

*Jim Bernhard*

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## **Words Gone Wild: Puns, Puzzles, Poesy, Palaver, Persiflage, and Poppycock** Jim Bernhard

Chock-full of jokes and entertaining twists of the tongue, this lighthearted but scholarly guide to humorous language is a surefire hit with word lovers. The examples are entertainingly bawdy, with a delightful narrative voice in word sleuth and author, Jim Bernhard. He provides examples and puzzles, teaching a smidgen of historical and etymological scholarship, but above all, amusing his audience.

Puns from Greek dramatists, Shakespeare, the Bible, George S. Kaufman, and Groucho Marx vie for attention with comical spoonerisms, droll malapropisms, witty anagrams, and humorous palindromes—plus original material by the author—including limericks, clerihews, crossword puzzles, acrostic puzzles, tonguetwisters, and other kinds of word play. Some examples:

- *Why does a match box? Because it sees a tin can.*
- *Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*
- *The pony was unable to talk because he was a little hoarse.*
- *Two peanuts went into a bar. One was a salted.*
- *The chicken that crossed the road was pure poultry in motion.*
- *As the gardener said when asked why he was cutting grass with a pair of scissors: “That’s all there is; there isn’t any mower.”*

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