

Technology in Language

By Hap Hansen

We are a nation with millions of immigrants. America has long been a melting pot for humanity. For nearly 250 years, we have welcomed Europeans, Hispanics, Africans, Asians and many others to our shores. All four of my Grandparents emigrated from Denmark. Many, if not most, of those immigrants, including my Grandparents, could not speak English. Many had great difficulty learning our language. Here are a few reasons why English is so hard to learn:

We must polish the Polish furniture.

He could lead if he would get the lead out.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The dump was so full, it had to refuse more refuse.

The soldier decided to desert in the desert.

It was a good time to present the present.

A bass was painted on the bass drum.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

I did not object to the object.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

The bandage was wound around the wound.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

It is a waste of time to teach a sow to sow.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

After a number of injections, my jaw got number.

I had to subject the subject to a number of tests. Here's a final thought to this nonsense:

How can I intimate to my most intimate friends how hard it is to use the right article when I write my articles; especially when leaning against a column to write my columns?