

Style Invitational Week 1187: Just drop it, okay? A new neologism contest

Plus the winning 'If xxxx were honest ...' entries of Week 1183



Tycoo: The quiet firer. This week's contest is to drop the last letter from a word and describe the result. (Bob Staake/for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers • Entertainment August 4 

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning "If xxx were honest" jokes.)

Tycoo: To fire an underling using a soft voice.

Witles: Cuts down one's IQ.

Air filte: A very light Jewish delicacy.



Delight your little one with this week's second prize: Nurse Ratched Bear strangling Mother Goose. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

Back in [Week 733](#), nine years ago, we ran a contest in which we asked you to create a new word by dropping the first letter from an existing one. Eighty-eight-time Loser Matt Monitto suggests we turn it around. **This week: Drop the last letter from an existing word, phrase or name and define the result**, as in Bob Staake's "tycoo" and Matt's examples above. You may add hyphens.

Submit your entries through this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1187 .

If for some reason you can't get it to work, you may email your entry to pat.myers@washpost.com; be sure to include your postal address, and to put "Week 1187" in the subject line of the email.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little "collectible" knickknack of a bear in a dress throttling Mother Goose, all mounted on a spring that's mounted on a "book" open to [that horrible nursery rhyme](#) telling children how unlucky they were to be born on a Wednesday or Thursday. Brought across the Atlantic Ocean and delivered directly into the Empress's hand by Loser Jayne Osborn of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, Formerly Europe.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#), the older-model "[This Is Your Brain on Mugs](#)" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "[Magnet Dum Laude](#)" or "[Falling Jest Short](#)." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 15; results published Sept. 4 (online Sept. 1). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "The har truth" was suggested by both Chris Doyle and Nan Reiner; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

☛ **The Style Conversational** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

THE HAR TRUTH: THE ‘HONEST’ RESULTS OF WEEK 1183

In [Week 1183](#) we asked for musings roughly in the form of “If xxxx were more honest, then . . .” Numerous Losers cracked: If Trump (or If Clinton) were more honest, he/she’d still be almost totally dishonest.

4th place:

If NBA players were more honest, when a teammate missed the first of two foul shots, they would slap his face rather than his hand. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

3rd place:

If seed catalogues were more honest, they would tell you that all photos are of professional flowers/vegetables/fruit that are paid to pose. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

2nd place and the Illumibowl rotating-color toilet light:

If Dunkin’ Donuts were more honest, it would change [its slogan](#) to “America Waddles on Dunkin.’ ” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

If salespeople were more honest, they wouldn’t keep asking, “Can I be honest with you?” (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

Outliers: honorable mentions

If credit cards were named more honestly, they would be called debt cards. (Scott Miller, Porter Ranch, Calif., a First Offender)

If Kellogg’s were more honest, it would admit that Snap, Crackle and Pop sound pretty much sound the same. (Rob Huffman, vacationing in Reykjavik, Iceland)

If Kanye West were more honest, he would embrace his talent and overcome his shy modesty. (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

If laptops were more honest, they’d be called catbottoms. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

If Canadians were being honest, they’d let us know that if Trump wins, THEY will build a wall. (Peter Hammond, Potomac, Md., a First Offender)

If Hillary Clinton were more honest, it would prove she really is willing to try anything to get elected. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

If Hillary Clinton were more honest, Vincent Foster, Chris Stevens and the crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald would be alive today. — Rep. Trey Gowdy (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

If police were more honest, they would charge people with “asking for a badge number” rather than “resisting arrest.” (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

If cellphone companies were honest, they would just have a single button at the bottom of their license

agreements, reading, “I accept, but I have no idea what I just accepted.” (Duncan Stevens)

If 7-Eleven were more honest about its drink sizes, they would be called Half-, Full-, Strained- and Burst-Bladder. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

If lifetime warranties were more honest, they would be called “We’re betting that you’re too lazy to mail this item back to us.” (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

If my GPS were more honest, it'd replace “Recalculating” with “What the hell are you DOING?!?” (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

If Sam’s Club were more honest, it'd remind us that we already have three unopened gallon buckets of mayonnaise in the pantry. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

If my kids were more honest, they'd admit that my sense of style is pretty groovy. (David Ballard)

A more honest name for **Fruit Roll-Ups** would be Corn Syrup Fly Paper. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

If Your Mama were more honest, she wouldn't call you Junior. (John Hutchins)

If lotteries were more honest, they would be called “notalotteries.” (Philip Justus, Potomac, Md.)

If air hand dryers in public bathrooms were labeled more honestly, they would be called pre-pants hand dryers. (Annette Green)

If airlines were more honest, they'd call reclining seats “midair melee instigators.” (Frank Mann, Washington)

If my wife were more honest, that would be a bad thing. (Todd DeLap)

If lawyers were more honest, we'd lose some of our best jokes. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

If Hillshire Brands were honest, it would specify that Jimmy Dean sausages contain little or no Jimmy Dean. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

If dating sites were more honest about profile pictures, they would include the disclaimer “Actual size may vary.” Or “Some settling of contents may have occurred.” (Lee Graham, Arlington, Va.)

If tanning salons were more honest, they would be called rotisserie human cafes. (Scott Miller)

If deodorant makers were more honest, they'd sell Soft & Dri Clothing Paint. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

If dairy companies were more honest, they'd put it on the label that their milk comes from the actual nipples of animals, like those gross women who breastfeed their babies in public, but even more disgusting! (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

If pears were named more honestly, they would be called ones. (Scott Miller)

If Hallmark were more honest, its slogan would be: “When you care enough to send a card but not a present.” (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

If Hillary Clinton were more honest, she would admit that her email scandal started with an ad that read, “Is Your Email Secure? Click Here to Find Out.” (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

If I were more honest, I'd admit that I don't think it was worth the \$20,000 I spent to see Lin-Manuel Miranda's final Broadway performance in “Hamilton.” The casting was horrible — I'm no historian, but I thought that Thomas Jefferson was white. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

If infomercials were more honest, they'd market exercise bikes as clothes racks right up front. (Jon Gearhart)

If NPR hosts were more honest, they would giggle whenever they read a promo for the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation. (Duncan Stevens)

If Playboy were more honest, they'd go by their full name: "Play With Yourself, Boy." (Pete Morelewicz, Washington)

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If Nike were more honest, it would admit that the unjust do it, too. (Kevin Dopart)

If What3Words were more honest, my house would be labeled "painful.lego.minefield." (Todd DeLap)

If De Beers were more honest, its slogan would be "a diamond is always pawnable." (Kevin Dopart)

If The Washington Post were more honest, it would be called The Washington Please Post This on Facebook. (Carol Teitelbaum, Olney, Md., a First Offender)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 8: our contest for poems based on anagrams. See bit.ly/invite1186.

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