

Wordplay

Kathy and I in company with Daniel Richards and Jonathan Paul racked our brains during several fun-soaked social occasions coming up with heteronyms -- words with the same spelling as other words but with different pronunciations and meanings. Some of our examples below violate that rule. For example, resume and resume and pate and pate are not true heteronyms because the accent changes the spelling. Pseudo-heteronyms like some of the noun/verb words below are not true heteronyms because they are closely related.

- invalid
- suspect
- produce
- desert
- advocate
- record
- wind
- resume
- read
- project
- lead
- progress
- tear
- present
- bow
- convict
- conflict
- perfect
- sow
- row
- route
- address
- envelope
- house
- abuse
- pate
- sake
- pervert
- convert
- polish

Dan Richards was especially good at this because he enjoyed words: the clever turn of a phrase, the clever turn of a humorous insult, crossword puzzles, etc. Speaking of puzzles, Kathy remembers a visit with Dan in Silver Spring MD where Dan and I were absolutely obsessed with completing a complex jigsaw puzzle whose picture had vast areas of little contrast or differentiation (making it especially difficult). We got up in the morning and worked on it together and we worked on it late at night after Kathy went to bed. We got the thing done before I left !

Peter Brueggeman