

**Excerpts from 'Anguished English', by Richard Lederer,
of sentences which were actually written by
real students in real classes in the United States.
Can you rewrite them to clarify and/or correct the meaning?**

- 1 Having one wife is called monotony.
- 2 In 1957, Eugene O'Neill won a pullet surprise.
- 3 Inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.
- 4 In nineteenth century Russia, the pheasants led horrible lives.
- 5 Although the patient had never been fatally ill before, he woke up dead.
- 6 Arabs wear turbines on their heads.
- 7 A triangle which has an angle of 135 degrees is called an obscene triangle.
- 8 A virtuoso is a musician with really high morals.
- 9 We had a longer holiday than usual this year because the school was closed for altercations.
- 10 My wife must take things easy now that she is stagnant.
- 11 The three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes, and caterpillars.
- 12 To be a good nurse, you must be absolutely sterile.
- 13 Abstinence is a good thing if practised in moderation.
- 14 Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper.
- 15 Unfortunately, we can't have children as my wife is inconceivable and unbearable.
- 16 Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.
- 17 The greatest writer of the futile ages was Chaucer.
- 18 In midevil times most people were alliterate.
- 19 People put on plays about ghosts, goblins, virgins and other mythical creatures.
- 20 Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet.