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Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1333: Check your (homo)phones

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Invent a word that sounds like another word; plus the winning Shakespeare 'tailgaters'



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

May 23

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning Shakespeare "tailgaters")

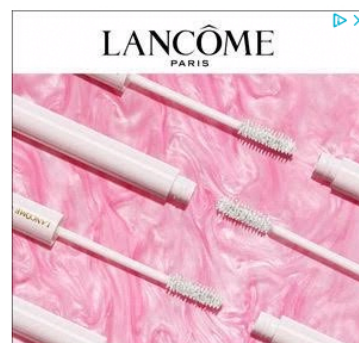
**Amfibian:** A frog who, after you kiss him, remains a frog. (*Milo Sauer*)

**Boredello:** A brothel where everyone looks and acts exactly like your wife. (*Dion Black*)

**Eyesickle:** The coldest of stares. (*Michelle Stupak*)

This week we repeat a contest that the Empress ran in 2009 and her predecessor, the Czar, did in 2002: **Invent a homophone — a word that sounds the same as an existing word but is spelled differently** — and define it, as in the examples from Week 849. What is "the same"? Isn't that "eye" in "eyesickle" a bit different from the "i" in "icicle? We rule (as that is what Empresses do) that it's close enough. Eye-I-ai!

Speaking of quibbles: In both previous contests we referred to these



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Alicia Keys, Lady Gaga, and more

words as homonyms — which they are, at least according to the Webster's New World and [Merriam-Webster](#) dictionaries. But “homonym” can also refer to a word that has totally different meanings with the same spelling, like pen (writing implement) and pen (pig holder). We don't want those. So here you are, purists: “homophones” it is. The previous headline “Homonymphomania” is hereby retired.

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1333](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1333) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, perfectly apropos of this contest, a T-shirt depicting a “**Dali Llama**” — a shaggy white llama with a big crazy Salvador Dali mustache. [Two](#) homophones! Donated at this month's [Loser brunch](#) by Dave Prevar.

**Other runners-up** win our “[You Gotta Play to Lose](#)” Loser Mug or our “[Whole Fools](#)” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “[Too-Weak Notice](#)” or “[Certificate of \(de\)Merit](#).” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, June 3;** results published June 23 in print, June 20 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; both Beverley Sharp and Jeff Contompasis submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

## A BARD HAR DAY: WINNING SHAKESPEARE TAILGATERS

In [Week 1329](#) we asked for Shakespeare “tailgaters” — rhyming couplets in which you pair a line from the Bard with one of your own.

**4th place:**

**“Methinks no face so gracious is as mine”** (Sonnet 62)

**Is my least successful pickup line.** (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg, Va.)



**3rd place:**

**Assume a virtue, if you have it not:** (“Hamlet”)

**“I am the smartest man this country's got.”** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**2nd place and the Shakespearean Insult Gum:**

**That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold**

things to know, from bathroom humor to Elaine May's first win at 87



**2** 13 things to do in the D.C. area this week



**3** ‘Big Little Lies’ isn't as mysterious as it used to be. But we still have seven unanswered questions.



**4** **Review** Migraines have plagued me for years. A new book puts my pain in perspective.



**5** Tony Awards 2019: ‘Hadestown’ wins best musical, and ‘The Ferryman’ snags best play



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("Macbeth")

This week's second prize: a two-homophone T-shirt.

**Now watch this, if my beer  
thou wouldst but hold!** (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)

**And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

**'Tis not the many oaths that makes the truth;** ("All's Well That  
Ends Well")

**"Believe me" often signifies fake newth.** (Marni Penning  
Coleman, Falls Church, Va.)

**Avon culling: Honorable mentions**

**Be wise as thou art cruel; do not press** (Sonnet 140)  
**To ask if thou seem'st fat in thy new dress.** (Larry Neal, McLean,  
Va.)

**Is not my sorrow deep, having no bottom?** ("Titus Andronicus")  
**A surgeon botched my buttock lift last autumn.** (Frank Osen,  
Pasadena, Calif.)

**My bosom franchised and allegiance clear** ("Macbeth")

**Is not my sorrow deep, having no bottom?** ("Titus Andronicus")  
**A surgeon botched my buttock lift last autumn.** (Frank Osen,  
Pasadena, Calif.)

**My bosom franchised and allegiance clear** ("Macbeth")  
**One-thirty K will make me disappear. — S. Daniels** (Steve  
Langer, Chevy Chase, Md.)



**That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain** ("Hamlet")  
**And still enthrall a base of several mill'n.** (Matt Monitto, Bristol,  
Conn.)

**What's done cannot be undone.** ("Macbeth")  
**Till 2021.** (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

**We'll yoke together, like a double shadow.** ("Henry VI, Part 3")  
**You watch Tucker Carlson; I'll watch Maddow.** (Chris Doyle)

**"A mess of Russians left us but of late."** ("Love's Labour's Lost")  
**(Don Jr. to his dad, Page 58)** (Frank Osen)

**And, being intercepted in your sport,** ("Titus Andronicus")  
**Is how the R\*\*skins keep their season short.** (Kevin Dopart,  
Washington)

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**As cannons overcharged with double cracks** (“Macbeth”)  
**Is Boeing’s 737 Max.** (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

**Come not between the dragon and his wrath:** (“King Lear”)  
**As “Game of Thrones” has shown, he’ll kick your ath.** (Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

**Do you think the Nats will win two games this week?** (Clifford Fishman, Rockville, Md.)

**Stones have been known to move, and trees to speak.**  
 (“Macbeth”)

**She’s knitted hats in corals, roses, pinks.** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

**The lady doth protest too much, methinks.** (“Hamlet”)

**Get thee to a nunnery.** (“Hamlet”)

**You’re having too much funnery.** (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring, Md.)

**I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought:** (Sonnet 30)  
**My keys, phone, wallet, glasses, my last thought.** (Frank Osen)

**Men at some times are masters of their fates** (“Julius Caesar”)  
**Unless they live in gerrymandered states.** (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington, Va.)

**No profit grows where is no pleasure ta’en,** (“The Taming of the Shrew”)



**No profit grows where is no pleasure ta’en,** (“The Taming of the Shrew”)

**So all our dishes come with extra ba’on.** (Chris Doyle)

**O poor Orlando, thou art overthrown!** (“As You Like It”)  
**Now China’s built the biggest theme park known.** (Frank Osen)

**One that loved not wisely but too well:** (“Othello”)  
**The mother of the Duggars, I’m Michelle.** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**Against the stormy gusts of winter’s day** (Sonnet 13)  
**Trump found no shelter in the NDA.** (Steve Smith, Potomac, Md.)

**Out damned spot! Out I say.** (“Macbeth”)  
**You’re loaded with my DNA.** (Bob McKenty, Matawan, N.J.)

**“The wise man knows himself to be a fool”** (“As You Like It”)  
**Seems something not taught at the Wharton School.** (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

**This day is called the feast of Crispian** (“Henry V”)  
**Perchance we fit a game of Frisbee in.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)



**Those parts of thee that the world's eye doth view:** (Sonnet 69)

**You see, commando cartwheels just won't do.** (Kevin Dopart)

**So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,** (Sonnet 18)

**Thy drunken Facebook pics will follow thee.** (Melissa Balmain,  
Rochester, N.Y.)

**Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown** ("Henry IV, Part 2")

**Especially when the Novocain wears down.** (Ward Kay, Vienna,  
Va.)

**If we should fail? We fail!** ("Macbeth")

**Mom says we'll still get into Yale.** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**The time is out of joint. O cursed spite!** ("Hamlet")

**I dropped my Rolex in the loo last night.** (Duncan Stevens)

**This Duncan hath borne his faculties so meek** ("Macbeth")

**And still gets contest ink most every week.** (Chris Doyle)

**I have not slept one wink** ("Cymbeline")

**And shan't till Empress grant me . . . zzzzzzzzz** (Dave Zarrow,  
Reston, Va.)

**Better a witty fool than a foolish wit,** ("Twelfth Night")

**But best to be both for the Style Invit.** (Heather Spence, Arlington)