

## A funny 'ENGLISH'ana

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(by courtesy of Mr Ken Hishiya)

There is no egg in eggplant, nor no ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We find quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't *fin*, grocers don't *groce*, and hammers don't *ham*. If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth *beeth*? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 *meese*? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why don't preachers *praught*? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? What language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship. Have noses that run and feet that smell.

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burs down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible.