

Non-Fiction Project

Wit for Wits, Twits & Half-Wits

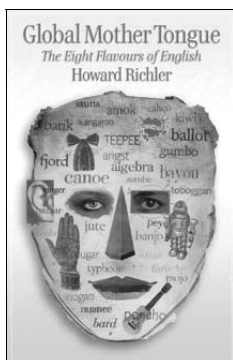
Howard Richler

Language makes us human and while used primarily as a means of communication, which serves a purpose in our daily survival, it also performs a far less 'serious' purpose.

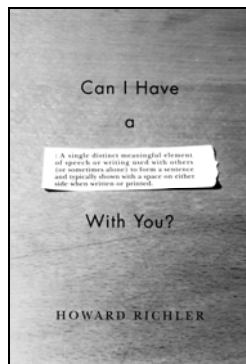
Howard Richler speaks about the propensity our species to play with language. Most people play with language in one way or another, and revel in its sounds. Language serves a recreational purpose and many people also are often 're-creating' words for their amusement. Howard suspects that the inability to play with language, in one form or another, may augur some form of pathology.

Language wit occurs wittingly, unwittingly and sometimes half-wittedly. We manipulate language for the purpose of wit and this process Howard designates as *arranged* humour. Sometimes the humour comes from mistakes that one has made and it appears we are dealing more with a twit rather than a wit. This form he designates as *de-ranged* humour, a pun on the word deranged and making the case that what is not *arranged* is thus *de-ranged*.

Previous books:



Global Mother Tongue:
The Eight Flavours of English



Can I Have a Word with You?

From the author:

In *Wit for Wits, Twits & Half-Wits* I have included many of the wittiest language play from known punsters and literary greats.

I have also included many of my own word play in the form of word definitions, (pictorial and non-pictorial) palindromic poetry and prose as well as a bevy of new types of word puzzle to delight the reader and make reading this book and the process of word play, in general, a collaborative effort. Many of my puzzles were created for puzzle magazines and many of the word play material have appeared in language journals and humour magazines within the last two decades.

I have avoided humour whose intent for me is the degrading of a particular group because of some supposed deficiency the group possesses. Humiliation is no laughing matter. I realize, however, that what is deemed offensive is a highly subjective matter, and if any of the wit displayed in the following pages offends someone, I am truly sorry.

It has been said that there is no better way to destroy wit than through analysis, ergo, I will keep my analysis to a minimum. Enjoy.

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