

A Funny Language

If I tell you I am going to eat blueberries
you know exactly what I'm going to do.
The same is true with blackberries.
If, on the other hand, I tell you
I am going to eat red berries
you have a variety from which
your imagination can select.

The opposite of "upload" is "download."
The opposite of "upgrade" is "downgrade."
The opposite of "upset" is. . . .

Wait; no it isn't.

And what about "upend," "uproar"?
(Continue compiling this list
on your own.)

You may, perhaps, feel better
about the order of things
if you keep "look up" and "look down,"
"climb up" and "climb down" in mind.
My advice, however, is: Don't consider
"stand up" and "stand down,"
"throw up" and "throw down,"
"sit up" and "sit down."
It will only confuse you.

Go to the supermarket and search
for dried apricots. You
will find them in a package
labeled "Dried Apricots."
Dried peaches are "Dried Peaches."
Dried apples are "Dried Apples."
But seek dried grapes and you
will only find them in a box
with the word "Raisins"
on its front. (I'm sure
I don't have to tell you
what to look for if
you want to buy
dried plums.)

When I say "I'm going to run across the street
to mail a letter" it doesn't mean
"I'm going to run across the street
to mail a letter." No, I'm just
going to walk across the street.

It's "run" as in "run an errand."

A person can run an errand by walking,
biking, taking a car or public
transportation. Only rarely
will you actually see anyone "run"
an errand.

And remember this too: If you
are going to run a computer program
you can do it while sitting in your chair;
sometimes even while in bed
asleep.

Speaking of being asleep,
don't you find it of interest
that kidnapping is a criminal offense,
while cat napping may be
a social offense but only if you do it
at an inappropriate moment?
Otherwise it's OK—unless,
of course, it means you are walking off
with somebody's cat.

I see my error now: Meant to write
"I will take care of it
first thing in the morning."
Typed instead "first think."
But I decide to leave it alone.
Pretty much the same think
under the circumstances.
At least I think so.

Steve Bloom
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