

The Book of



Hilarious Homophonic Headline Puzzles

Peter Weisz



DOUBLE HEADERS®

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Published by



Peter Weisz Publishing, LLC
7143 Winding Bay Lane
West Palm Beach, FL 33412 USA
peterweiszpublishing.com

Weisz, Peter • All rights reserved
Puzzles, Humor, Young Readers, Journalism, Popular Culture

ISBN: 9798339869412
Printed in the United States of America by Lulu Press
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Peter Weisz

·DEDICATION·

*To my grandchildren:
Ezra, Zella, Benno and May*

DOUBLE HEADERS

·ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS·

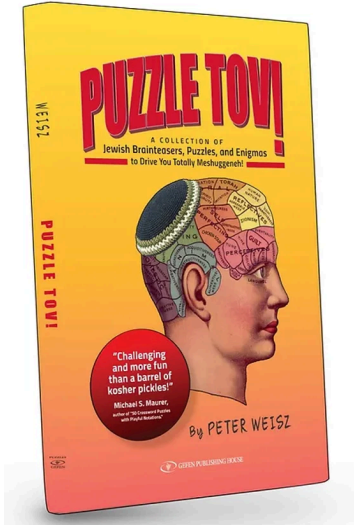
I would like to extend special thanks to the following people without whose support and assistance this book could not have been produced:

Jackie Handelman
Michael Maurer

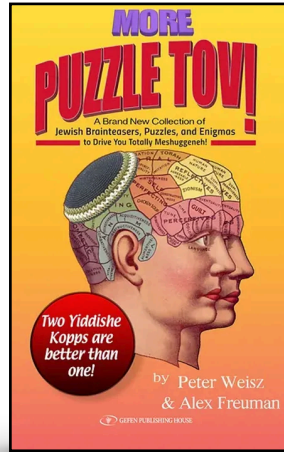
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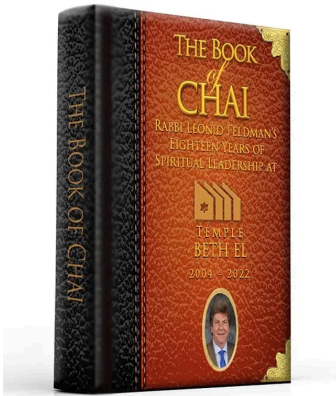
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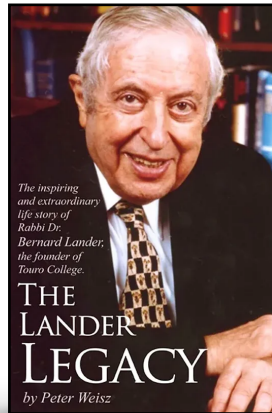
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“EVERY GOOD HEADLINE IS A SHORT STORY...
A VERY SHORT STORY.”

— RUSSELL BANKS,
AMERICAN WRITER OF FICTION AND POETRY

DOUBLE HEADERS

• HOW THIS WORKS •

Welcome to *The Book of Double Headers*. In the following pages you will discover 52 challenging and confounding puzzles for your edification and amusement. The game works like this:

On each page you will find the opening paragraph of a news story and an accompanying image. You are the headline writer. It's your job to come up with the correct headline for each story.

There are two requirements:

1. The headline must convey the meaning of the news story.
2. Employing homophones—words that sound alike but have different meanings—the first half of the headline must be phonetically identical to the second half (or pretty close).

For example, have a look at the book's cover. It depicts a “man-bites-dog”-style news story about a happy Roman gladiator who reverses roles by eating a female lion rather than being eaten by it. The headline reads: *Gladiator Glad He Ate Her*

DOUBLE HEADERS

After each of the puzzles, the correct headline appears on the overleaf page. So, ponder each one and see if you can come up with the correct homophonic headline before turning the page.

Some tips:

1. Pay attention to each story's dateline and locale. These are sometimes important.
2. Headlines are often written a certain "Headline-ese" dialect that omits things like articles (the, a, an, etc.).
3. Scan each story for words and names that sound similar but are spelled differently.
4. Words and names found in the story may also be used in the headline solution.
5. As you work on each puzzle, say your headlines out loud. It's easier to hear, rather than see, the correct answer.

Finally, if you've enjoyed solving these puzzles, please try to create some of your own. I think you'll find creating Double Headers is even more fun than solving them. If you come up with some good ones, please post them at double-headers.com or send them to me at peter@peterweiszpublishing.com. They may wind up (fully credited) in *The Book of Double Headers Vol. II*.

That's it. Happy Headlines..

—Peter Weisz
September, 2024

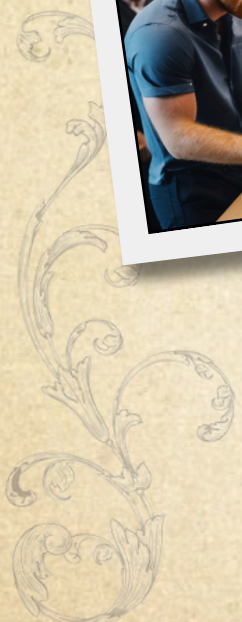


(LXXV BC • *Imperial Rome*) — Colosseum champion, Spartacus, was interviewed by Roman scribes yesterday after successfully defeating a ferocious lioness in the arena. In a stunning role reversal, the celebrated performance warrior proceeded to cut the beast into pieces with his sword and then devoured its flesh before the cheering crowd. Asked if he suffered any ill effects from ingesting the lioness meat, Spartacus replied: “On the contrary. I feel great and am delighted that I was able to consume that ferocious female feline...before it consumed me!”





(August 12, 2024 • London, UK) — As part of an ongoing investigation into the recent theft of certain Crown Jewels from Buckingham Palace, both the Duke of Sussex and his wife, Meghan Markle, were required to undergo fingerprinting by Scotland Yard. Upon examination a startling discovery was made. Prince Harry's fingerprints showed extensive and unusual hairlike growths. Investigators are puzzled.





(January 3, 1988 • Buckingham Palace, London, U.K.) — Pop superstar Neil Diamond's investiture as a British knight was interrupted today as the singer fretted about his appearance just before he was about to go before Queen Elizabeth. When informed that he was required to go down on one knee after reaching the Queen, he objected. "Somebody mussed up my hair," he said. "If I go down, the Queen will see my sloppy hairdo. Can't I just keep standing?" Diamond was informed, in no uncertain terms that according to protocol, he is required to genuflect. Diamond complied and arose a knight.





(April 1, 1595 • Stratford-Upon-Avon, Britain) — Well-known Warwick fairy princess, Mustardseed, was spotted yesterday running along the banks of the River Avon. The virginal sprite who became famous after appearing as an innocent ingenue in Will Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" comedy had missed the departure of the noon shuttle boat and was desperately running after it in effort to board the vessel and be taken across to the eastern bank. She ultimately caught up with it.



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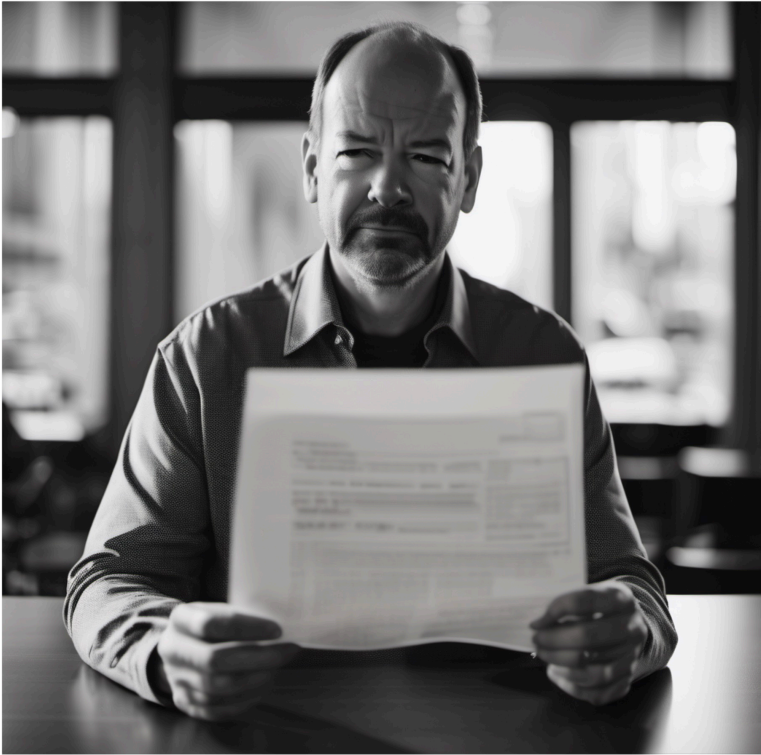
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Economy

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(September 21, 2024 • New York City) — A disgruntled New York Times editor left the offices of the Sullivan & Cromwell law firm after attending the reading of his late uncle's last will and testament. Will Shortz, the paper's long-standing crossword puzzle editor, was visibly disappointed by the meager inheritance he received from his wealthy uncle's estate. "I thought Uncle Lyle thought more highly of me than that," said the unhappy cruciverbalist. "All he left me was \$500 and his collection of Lew Wallace books."