

THINK, THANK, THUNK.

By Jean Stephenson

I can't fathom how people born and raised in another country that doesn't speak English ever learns it. For some reason I woke up this morning with the words "think, thank, thunk" floating thru my head. Had nothing to do with an adventurous dream I had been having; those words just rudely interrupted and floated merrily in from the file drawers of my brain where they had been stored.

Now the first two words are acceptable, the third has never caught on but shouldn't it? It means the past tense of "think" or "thank", wouldn't it? Even though the other two each have entirely different meanings. "Think" means using one's brain to create a meaningful mental object. "Thank" means to express gratitude."Thunk" should be the past tense of both, right? But it's not. How could a person trying to learn English ever make sense of that?

And "moreover", which means "in addition to"...well then why have two different words to mean the same thing? That's not very practical, is it, in the midst of thousands upon thousands of words in a language?

But now, consider the fact that I had gotten out of bed and raced to my computer to make notes for things I needed to accomplish by lunchtime and got into this subject of "think, thank, thunk" instead? Opening up onto another subject entirely which is totally unconnected and much too complex to include in my plans for activities before lunch?

Maybe I should crawl back under the covers for another hour and start the day over. I think I should thank you for listening. Or maybe I thunk all these heavy thoughts on a too empty stomach. I hear bacon calling....

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