**Malapropism Mania**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

A malapropism occurs when one word is accidentally substituted for another. The result can be funny, as the great ballplayer Yogi Berra often proved:

* He hits from both sides of the plate. He’s amphibious. (*Amphibious* means living in water and on land. *Ambidextrous* means using either hand.)
* Even Napoleon had his Watergate. (*Watergate* was a scandal that brought down Richard Nixon. *Waterloo* was a battle that brought down Napoleon.)
* It ain’t the heat, it’s the humility. (*Humility* is a humble attitude. *Humidity* is moisture in the air.)

In each of the sentences below, find the malapropism. Write down the wrong word and its meaning and then the right word and its meaning.

1. Being married to only one person is called monotony.

*Monotony* means something boring.

*Monogamy* means being married to one person.

1. The storm surge and flooding made the mayor evaporate Houston.

*Evaporate* means turn liquid to gas.

*Evacuate* means make people leave an area.

1. I wish I worked in an office instead of a cuticle.

*Cuticle* is the skin around a fingernail.

*Cubicle* is a small work station in an open office design.

1. A rolling stone gathers no moths.

*Moths* are fluttering insects with grayish wings.

*Moss* is a green growth that prefers damp, shaded areas.

1. She scores well on tests because she has a photogenic memory.

*Photogenic* means looking good in pictures.

*Photographic* means relating to pictures or photography.

1. This supposed stalker is just a pigment of your imagination.

*Pigment* is a color, often in skin.

*Figment* is something believed but not real.

1. This photo seems to show Bigfoot, but it is just an optical conclusion.

*Conclusion* means a decision based upon review.

*Illusion* refers to a deceptive visual.

1. My father's legs are covered with very close veins.

*Very close veins* are, well, very close veins.

*Varicose veins* are enlarged major blood vessels that reduce circulatory efficiency.

1. We won't let terrorists hold our nation hostile.

*Hostile* means opposed in a violent way.

*Hostage* means captive against one’s will.

1. Patience is a virgin.

A *virgin* is a person who has not had sexual relations.

A *virtue* is a positive trait.