

Laugh & Learn

Thought for Today

Education today, more than ever before, must see clearly the dual objective: education for living and educating for making a living. James Mason Wood

School is back...and so are Mr. Dan and Laugh and Learn



The Learn:

The Whole Art of Teaching

by John Amos Comenius 1592-1670

Education for Everyone

Not the children of the rich or of the powerful only, but of all alike, boys and girls, both noble and ignoble, rich and poor, in all cities and towns, villages and hamlets, should be sent to school.

Learning is Natural

Who is there that does not always desire to see, hear, or handle something new? To whom is it not a pleasure to go to some new place daily, to converse with someone, to narrate something, or have some fresh experience?



The proper education of the young does not consist in stuffing their heads with a mass of words, sentences, and ideas dragged together out of various authors, but in opening up their understanding to the outer world, so that a living stream may flow from their own minds, just as leaves, flowers, and fruit spring from the bud on a tree.

Learning by Easy Stages

There is in the world no rock or tower of such a height that it cannot be scaled by any man (provided he lack not feet) if ladders are placed in the proper position or steps are cut in the rock, made in the right place, and furnished with railings against the danger of falling over. If we examine ourselves, we see that our faculties grow in such a manner that what goes before paves the way for what comes after.

Play

Much can be learned in play that will afterwards be of use when the circumstances demand it. A tree must also be refreshed by wind, rain, and frost; otherwise it easily falls into bad condition, and becomes barren. In the same way the human body needs movement, excitement, and exercise, and in daily life these must be supplied, either artificially or naturally.



Lifelong Learning

If, in each hour, a man could learn a single fragment of some branch of knowledge, a single rule of some mechanical art, a single pleasing story or proverb (the acquisition of which would require no effort), what a vast stock of learning he might lay by.

Quotes from John Amos Comenius, *The Great Didactic*, written 1628-32; published 1649; translated by M.W. Keatinge 1896.

The Moravian theologian and educational reformer John Amos Comenius (1592-1670) is often called the father of modern education.



John Amos Comenius was born on March 28, 1592, in southeastern Moravia. His early education was irregular. After deciding to become a priest of the Bohemian Unity of Brethren, he received his higher education in Germany at Herborn, Nassau, and Heidelberg. In 1614 he returned to Bohemia, where he taught in the schools of the Brethren. He was ordained a priest 2 years later and appointed pastor of a parish in Fulneck in 1618.

The Thirty Years War forced Comenius into hiding in Brandýs near Vysoké Myto. There he wrote the allegory *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*.

Because of persecution, the Brethren were forced to leave Bohemia in 1628. Comenius went to Leszno, Poland, where his position as headmaster of the Brethren's school led him to become interested in educational reform. Many of the educational ideas expressed in *The Great Didactic* were developed during this period.

The Links

Top Ten Signs the School Field Trip is Not Going Well:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sP3-M88uWfM>

Get your Kleenex ready: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFVGdZOHL0>

Do you Speak English: <http://www.funnieststuff.net/viewmovie.php?id=1338>

The Laugh

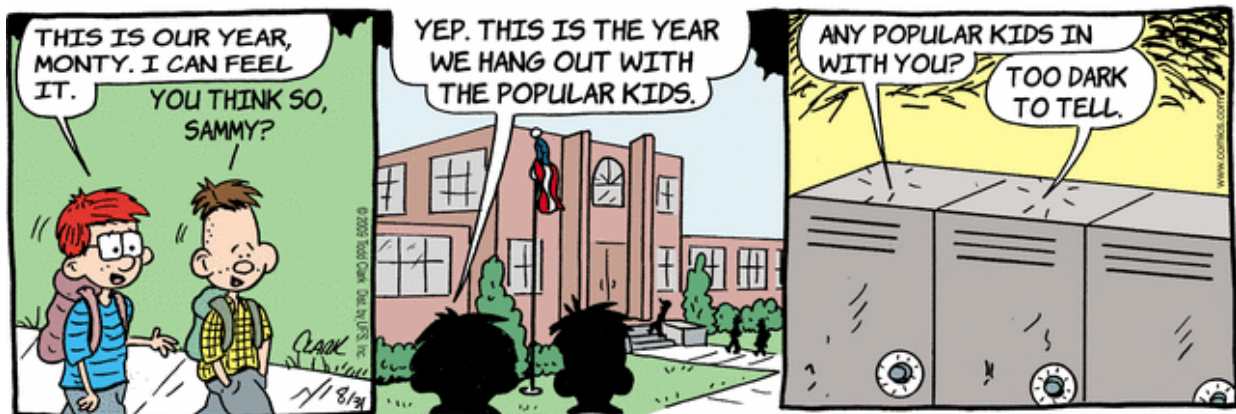
FATHER: Why on earth did you swallow the money I gave you?
JUNIOR: You said it was my lunch money.

TEACHER: George, go to the map and find North America.
GEORGE: Here it is!
TEACHER: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?
CLASS: George!



A second grader came home from school and said to her mother, "Mom, Guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The mother, more than a little surprised, asked fearfully, "That's interesting. How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

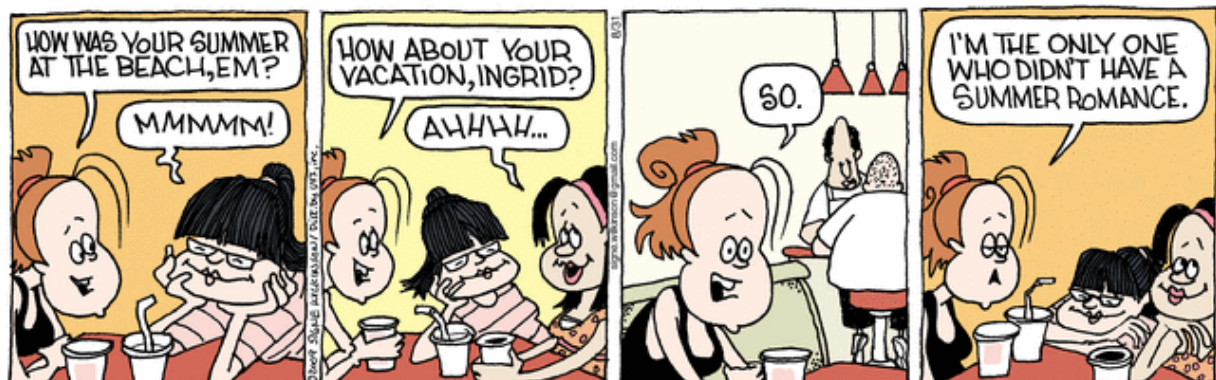


Punctuation

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."



TEACHER : Fred, your ideas are like diamonds.

FRED: You mean they're so valuable?

TEACHER: No, I mean they're so rare.

TEACHER: Fred, the story you handed in called "Our Dog," is exactly like your brother's.

FRED: Of course. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Your spelling is much better. Only five mistakes that time.

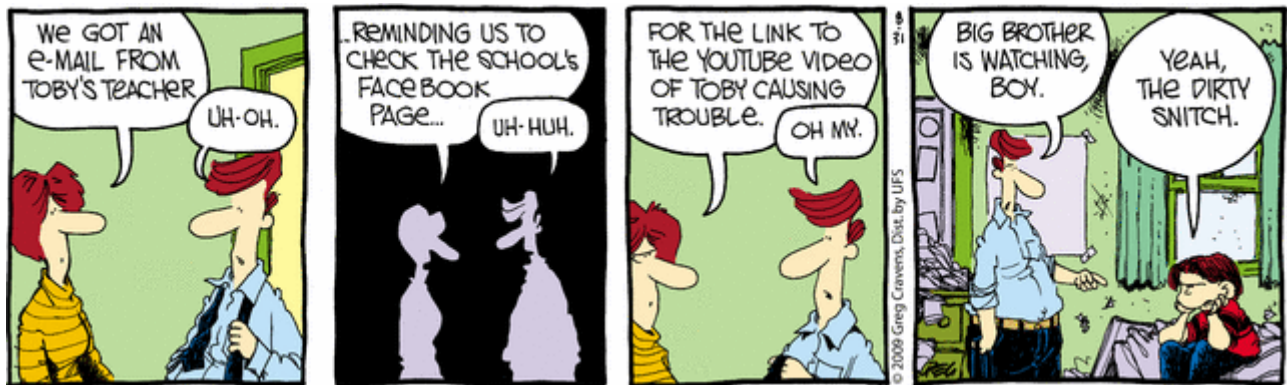
PUPIL: Thank you.

TEACHER: Now let's go on to the next word.

TEACHER: Herman, name two pronouns.

PUPIL: Who, me?

TEACHER: Correct!



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