ASSIGNMENT 2: PUNS

(A) SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS AS AN E-MAIL ATTACHMENT OR IN AN E-MAIL MESSAGE TO ME (schuh@humnet.ucla.edu) BEFORE TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 14:

- Find (at least) THREE PUNS that are based on language sounds. Try to find puns based on three different types of sound manipulation (homophones, idioms, sound substitution, onyms, spoonerisms).
- Create (at least) ONE EXAMPLE OF A PUN OF YOUR OWN based on language sounds or spelling. IF YOU KNOW A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, PUNS BASED ON SOUNDS AND/OR SPELLING IN THOSE LANGUAGES WOULD BE WELCOME.

(B) REVIEW ITEMS FOR PUNS; YOU DON’T HAVE TO TURN THIS IN AS PART OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT) Referring to the various categories of punning and on some of the features that makes a joke a “pun”, (i) decide whether the following are puns or not and (ii) what type of sound manipulation has been used:

1. He frequently practices furtive looks to operate at peek efficiency.
2. Sign at a poultry farm: Better laid than ever. (Lederer, page 14)
3. Oboe: An English tramp.
5. The following site has hundreds (maybe thousands!) of jokes claimed to be puns. The selection is changed almost daily. Many are funny, many are hopelessly dumb, many if not most could legitimately called “puns”, but others, though they are plays on words, don’t really seem to be puns. Click on the links at the right for various categories:

   http://www.punoftheday.com/

Look through some of the postings and answer the following questions:

- Does this really seem to be a pun?
- Is the pun based on sound, spelling, or both?
- If it is based on sound, which of our categories (homophones, idioms, sound substitution, onyms, spoonerisms). does it fall under?