

## Appendix 18 – Nonsense Sentences

### What's Wrong With These Sentences?

*Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.*

This sentence is grammatically correct, but it doesn't make any sense. That is because the words carry more meanings than just their dictionary definitions.

- If something is green, it must have color and therefore cannot be colorLESS.
- Ideas are *abstracts*. They are not physical things that can be seen or touched. Something that is not physical can't have a color.
- Ideas are not alive. Only living things can sleep.
- *Furious* refers to an emotion. One cannot sleep with any emotion, so sleeping can't be done furiously.

See if you can figure out what's wrong with these sentences:

1. The young toast taught the sad paper.
2. The old wrinkled boy ate some paper toast.
3. The happy street wrote a kind apple.
4. A brick dog slowly found the sad piano.