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The One Source for a World of Translation Services

Bloopers

At The Language Center, our process of managing document translation involves adhering to strict quality guidelines and procedures. It also involves a healthy team spirit, a critical element in our company's culture.

We invite you to share the bloopers on this page, which can be useful for a humorous boost to the spirit of your own team, or as a gentle reminder of the importance that quality plays in communicating business-critical information.

(Note: these bloopers do not come from any of our work!)

In the window of an Indian shop:

"Why go somewhere else to be cheated, when you can come here?"

In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

"The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable."

In a Belgrade hotel elevator:

"To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order. "

In a Paris hotel elevator:

"Please leave your values at the front desk."

In a hotel in Athens:

"Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily."

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

"You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday."

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers:

"Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension."

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:

“Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.”

On the menu of a Polish hotel:

“Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.”

In a Hong Kong supermarket:

“For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.”

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop:

“Ladies may have a fit upstairs.”

In a Nairobi restaurant:

“Customers who find our waitress rude, ought to see the manager”.

In an East African newspaper:

“A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.”

In a Vienna hotel:

“In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.”

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist:

“Teeth e by the latest Methodists.”

A translated sentence from a Russian chess book:

“A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played.”

In a Pumwani maternity ward:

“No children allowed”.

In the window of a Swedish furrier:

“Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.”

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong:

“Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.”

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan:

“Stop: Drive Sideways.”

In a Swiss mountain inn:

“Special today -- no ice cream.”

In a Copenhagen airline ticket office:

“We take your bags and send them in all directions.”

On the door of a Moscow hotel room:

“If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.”

At a Budapest zoo:

“Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.”

In a Tokyo shop:

“Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.”

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance:

“English well talking. - Here speeching American.”

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