

Four kids ago I met an intelligent, delightful, stunning, ornery blond girl in moccasins who could recite the alphabet backwards, tie a cherry stem in a knot with her tongue and boasted her culinary specialty was to boil toast. In an instant I was turn turtle, tail over teakettle taken with her. In addition to family life and two or three pseudo career paths there are a hand full of other activities I've engaged in through the years:

achieving mediocrity  
acting as if I just came out of light speed  
acting my age, not my shoe size  
acting suspiciously normal  
adding a fillagree of piquancy  
adding pocalypse to the end of nouns  
adding urgency  
aggravating  
agitating  
agreeing to disagree  
alux spotting  
analyzing algorithms  
annoying  
annually recalculating my micromort average  
anticipating halcyon days  
anti-eventizing  
applying metacognitive strategies to problems I've already solved  
asking the kids what band it is every time an ELO song plays  
asserting "odd's bodkins" when asked to quote Hamlet  
assuming  
attempting to be simultaneously hunky & dory  
attending  
attracting chaos  
averting my eyes when I didn't really want to  
avoiding affectation  
avoiding any show Adam Sandler is in  
avoiding apophenia bias  
avoiding croc-a-monsters  
avoiding food trucks  
avoiding my own petard all together  
avoiding repetition during a blue moon  
avoiding speed wobbles  
avoiding the inevitable  
balloon animal bending  
barking up incorrect trees  
basking  
beating the odds  
behaving quirkily  
being a foremost expert on the dunning kruger effect  
being a proper skeptic  
being a relevant expert  
being a wisenheimer  
being algorithmically challenged  
being and defeating my own worse enemy  
being bang on  
being calculating  
being casual-fly  
being champion  
being cheeky  
being chuffed  
being contrary

being critical  
being damned if I don't  
being damned if I do  
being deceptive in my veracity  
being dizzy with a dame  
being in cahoots  
being in the moment  
being jargogled  
being left to my own devices  
being my own worse enemy  
being off by a gnat's whisker  
being spontaneous  
being statistically significant  
being steady in the face of danger  
being taken to the cleaners  
being testy  
being the antagonist in my internal monologues  
being the very first person to ever say there are no original thoughts  
being the water  
being ware the Ides of March (typically more-so in March)  
being hoorawed by a little girl  
believing in the absence of proof  
bending the rules  
binge-watching  
blamestorming  
blessing and/or thanking potentially lucky stars and at times declaring ownership of the same  
blessing disguises  
blessing things while in disguise  
blinking  
blurring the lines  
boondoggle planning  
brabbling  
breaking blue laws  
breaking the case  
breaking the ice with bardolatry  
bringing on the funk  
bursting at the seams  
buttoning up & pinning down  
calculating GCD  
calculating GDP on intangible assets  
calling 867-5309  
calling for drastic measures  
calling knickers and pantaloons bloomers  
calling Pluto a planet  
canoodling  
casting about  
causing a rumpus  
causing quite a kerfuffle  
challenging fellow diners to tater tot jenga  
changing attitudes and destiny one super mundane truth at a time  
changing my tune  
changing the start date of my fiscal year  
chasing wild geese  
cheating on the Turing test  
checking after a thought to see if I have another think coming

checking my totem  
Chekhov's gun foreshadowing  
choosing to zig when I'm expected to zag  
claiming to be the walrus  
clambering  
clickbait dodging  
cloning mistakes  
collecting bats for my belfry  
comedy sketch mapping  
coming up with "slow TV" programming ideas  
complaining  
complicating simple truths  
conceiving  
conceptualizing paradoxical self-transcendence  
conjuring cacoethes  
connecting humanity to technology  
continental dining tines down  
conundrumming  
converting analog audio input into compressed digital formats  
converting the 7-10 split  
cookin' with gas  
coordinating itineraries  
correcting people that say doozy instead of humdinger  
counting down  
creating an entire new color theory inspired by Isaac Newton's studies based on sound intervals  
creating confidence with consonance alliteration  
creating new old proverbs  
criticizing metaphors  
cross-stacking  
crumpling  
crushing it  
cultivating wit  
cultural appropriation investigation  
curbing my enthusiasm  
cussing a blue streak  
cutting the rug  
cutting to the chase  
dancing in the moonlight  
dangling participles  
debunking commercial comfort technology  
deciphering genetic code  
declaring shenanigans  
deferring judgment until I've evaluated analyzed and forgotten what I intended to have an opinion on  
demonstrating  
demonstrating instability using Braess's Paradox  
describing things in one word or less  
developing protocol  
devising a bibliosmia aroma for digital books  
disagreeing to agree  
disambiguating  
discarding theories  
discombobulating  
discovering other seasons for my discontent  
discovering the magic in the wake of a fiasco  
dishing

dispatching  
dispersing ideations  
displaying ultracrepidarian tendencies  
disremembering  
dodging dodgy ne're-do-wells  
dog-earing pages  
doing daring-do  
doing myself a mischief  
doing nothing that requires stick on name tags or lanyards  
doing the teaberry shuffle  
doing the whistling walk-away  
doing the whole shebang at full tilt  
doing things in spades  
doing things to smithereens  
dragging my feet to the sunny side of the street  
drawing inferences  
drawing on my experience  
drawing reference  
dreaming of glory  
drifting along with the occasional tumbleweed though often without  
drinking Dublin Dr. Pepper  
dropping into medias res  
eating left handed whoppers  
eating my lunch all by myself  
eating pear halves trapped in green Jell-o  
employing micro expression misdirection  
employing orthogonal moves in Dejarik  
employing prospective hindsight  
encouraging minimal standards  
enforcing Murphy's Law  
engaging in competitive revelance  
entering "a touch of the mulligrubs in its collywobbles" in shut-down logs as the reason for unexpected system issues  
enticing providence  
entrepreneurship with monkeys  
envisaging mystic crystal revelations  
establishing hot wheels terminal velocity with a 1969 whip creamer rose super  
evading opportunities  
exaggerating the vocables singing Sweet Caroline  
existing 8vb  
expanding on the truth  
expecting  
experiencing esprit de l'escalier  
experiencing pareidolia  
experiencing slippage  
explaining enigmatic analogies used to clarify restated clarifications  
explaining paradoxics  
explaining some of these things  
explaining the origin of the word diatribe as a serious occupation of time in discourse  
explaining things to the TV  
exporting  
exposition with purposeful omission  
expounding dogmatic options  
expressing unrealistically pragmatic objectivs  
fabricating hosting and being the primary recipient of awards in imaginary awards shows  
fabricating ripping yarns

facilitating rumor spread  
facing facts  
failing over  
falling inbetween  
favoring normalization  
fearing the worst  
feeling bluer than blue  
feeling funky  
fending off  
festering  
fetching  
fighting my way out of wet paper bags  
filtering  
finding some people to be the bee's knees if not the cat's pajamas  
finding the time  
flabbergasting  
flashing bios  
fleeing though none were pursuing  
flink spotting  
flipping out  
flirting with disaster  
following protocol  
forgetting auld acquaintances  
forgetting combinations and pins  
forgetting who I've told I'll forget more than you'll ever know  
fostering antonyms  
fostering reflexive axioms right to equality  
fostering skittish cats through whisker fatigue  
frustrating bumfuzzled throttlebottoms  
functioning at another level  
furthering ado  
gap stopping  
gardening indehiscent weeds  
gathering experience through quest rather than battle.  
gawking  
generating false statements about practicing radical honesty  
genome sequencing  
getting a tiger by the tail  
getting back to the place I once belonged  
getting by-gones to be anything but by-gones  
getting caught  
getting embarrassingly good at Q\*bert  
getting funkified  
getting goose bumps  
getting into the tanglefoot  
getting knocked into a cocked hat  
getting peeved  
getting peoples goats  
getting swept up  
getting the blue plate special  
getting there as the crow flies  
getting to the point  
getting words in edgeways  
gilding lilies  
giving “7” as the answer to almost any question

giving credit  
giving in to my whims  
giving individual hoots,  
giving informed consent  
giving my all  
giving the pets pet names  
giving undivided attention  
going a bridge not quite far enough  
going at it hammer and tongs  
going back one day (come what may) to blue bayou  
going blue blazes  
going off on a tangent  
going off script  
going plaid  
going widdershins  
governing my inner circle of confusion  
grasping at straws  
grudgingly suffering fools  
grufeling in the face of a challenge  
gungling  
hanging on in quiet desperation  
hanging with the usual suspects  
hashtagging octothorpe  
havering  
havin' a time  
having a clue  
having aspirations  
having brilliantly waggish riposte to any rogue epithet  
having compulsions  
having druthers  
having my druthers  
heading into the wide blue yonder  
heaving a sigh  
hiding in plain sight  
hitting the deck (slapjack)  
holding all the cards  
holding on loosely without letting go  
holding the line  
hopelessly springing eternally  
hoping  
hoping against hope  
hoping someone will take me to funky town without having to be asked  
hyperfocal distancing  
igniting the fire within  
imaginary trompe l'oeil  
imagining  
imagining an unscripted life  
imagining being an envisioneer  
imagining new uses for hippos  
imposing  
improvising transactional analysis activities  
in the absence of certainty calculating the probability of finding a logical hypotheses in a theory of inductive inference using only the most complicated theoretical models  
inspiring innovation  
installing batteries backwards  
interacting

intermittent music and artistic diversions  
interrobanging  
ironic YOLOing  
jesting bawdily  
joshing  
judging book covers  
juggling  
jumping the gun  
jumping to conclusions  
just standing there mumblin', a-fumblin'  
keepin' my day job (as recommended)  
keeping an eye out for gutter cat  
keeping an eye out for Icelandic sea monster Lagarfijotsormur  
keeping anima sana in corpore sano  
keeping busy doing something close to nothing but different than the day before  
keeping everything Jake  
keeping my cool  
keeping my opinions on forced perspective techniques to myself  
keeping the peace  
keeping the secret to a meaningful life  
keeping things in perspective  
keeping up appearances  
kicking habbits  
knowing my onions  
lateral thinking  
laughing in the face of danger  
leaning into success  
leaving a mark  
leaving things at sixes and sevens  
letting chips fall where they may  
letting people know I was in a zone  
letting the spirit move me  
leveling up  
living a blissful existence  
living on the edge  
living the dream  
living unscripted  
logging in  
lolloping like a big brown bear  
looking addled for my before picture  
looking at things in a different light  
looking for the bare necessities  
looking for the bare necessities - the simple bare necessities  
looking for the haystack I put my needle in  
looking for things I misplaced  
looking for things I neatly put away  
looking for words that rhyme with orange  
looking guilty by looking innocent  
looking things up in my Funk and Wagnalls  
losing focus  
losing my cool  
losing my hair  
losing my sense of direction  
losing the plot  
lowering the boom

making bad calls  
making blank points  
making examples of  
making executive decisions  
making fun of commercials  
making impact statements  
making intentional mistakes to avoid tempting the devil  
making it my business  
making simple look complicated  
making sure all systems are go  
making sure I can easily identify Shinola  
making sure I wasn't the one walking backwards when helping move a large object  
making sure if it's not one thing it's another  
making sure what you see is what you get  
mangling metaphors  
manufacturing mindless clichés  
marginalizing probability  
masquerading as my evil twin from an alternate universe  
maximizing molecular comedy  
meandering  
measuring monetary value of things by the number of slinkies you could buy  
measuring success  
measuring unfueled hypnotic susceptibility  
meditating on my obsessions  
mentioning things en passant  
migrating  
mimicking  
minding my p's & q's  
minimizing  
misbehaving  
miscommunicating  
misfitting  
misinterpreting  
mismanaging  
misremembering  
missing points  
mistranslating acronyms  
misusing the word etymology to change it's meaning  
mixing metaphors  
mobilizing ideas  
mocking moof milkers  
moderating frank discorus  
mondegreening lyrics to old rock songs  
motivating collective intelligence  
mowing patterns parallel to that of my neighbors lawn  
mucking about  
muddling through  
multitasking  
narrating chipmunk schemes  
nesting  
never troubling troubles unless or until trouble troubled me  
new word developementization  
not tweeting or re-tweeting  
noticing  
opposing phyllotactic spirals



optimizing with a YAGNI attitude  
opting out  
over engineering  
over reacting  
over thinking  
overstating underappreciation  
parsing  
paying blue book  
peeking  
pellucid and verbose defence of sesquipedalian loquaciousness  
peppering my stories with attic salt  
perceiving experimental haptics in virtual environments  
perfecting asymmetrical facial expressions  
perfecting last seconditus  
performing  
peripherally leveling up  
pestering  
planning to show how sometimes doing nothing increases my productivity but never actually doing it  
playing a mediocre Purdie Shuffle  
playing air-tuba to the muzak in elevators  
playing favorites  
playing party records  
playing the blues  
playing the cards I was dealt  
playing with marbles  
pointing-and-clicking  
poking fun  
polarizing  
pondering being the thought leader  
post-it note graffiti  
pouring perfect pancakes  
practicing brevity and clarity  
practicing phylarology  
practicing sprezzatura  
pragmatically defending seriously misguided feckless ideological notions  
praising petrichor  
predicting happiness  
predicting obvious outcomes  
prescribing placebos for humdudgeons  
pressing my luck  
presupposing  
pretending  
prevising  
prioritizing  
proclaiming wowzers  
promoting being the snake's hips - the kipper's knickers - the eel's ankle - the monkey's eyebrows  
promoting idiotic listicles  
promoting morality  
protecting steel against rust by bluing  
providing the seitensatz  
proving concepts  
puddle jumping  
pulling push brooms  
pushing in all the stops  
pushing the boundaries of intertextuality

putting a deep snap in my hat  
putting feathers in caps  
putting it right in the ol' pickle barrel  
putting my own spin on charcuterie board design  
putting Red Fred in the shed  
putting the hammer down  
putting too fine a point on things  
putting up my dukes  
putting very little thoughts into things  
questioning authority  
quickly pretending I was just scratching my stomach when caught playing air banjo  
quoting Yoda  
raising expectations  
raising my eyebrow like Spock  
rankling like a cankle  
reacquiring recklessly released krakens  
reading out loud (whispering the parts in parenthesis)  
reasoning under uncertainty  
recklessly speaking in riddles  
reclaiming  
reconciling focused neutrality  
recontextualizing  
recovering  
recreating Devil's Tower in mashed potatoes  
redacting  
refining my vision  
refraining from using janus words  
regulating chaos  
releasing curses on the world  
relentless caviling  
reminding the kids we are not the Rockefellers  
renewing  
repeating history  
repeating hysterical inaccuracies  
replying to requests saying "by your command" in my best Cylon (circa 1980) voice  
requiring MacGuffins  
researching quality internet studies  
resisting temptation  
restating for clarification  
resting assured that life would go on beyond the palisades  
rethinking probabilistic identifiers  
retracting  
retracting redactions  
revealing less than accurate slightly skewed chronicles of my life to the kids  
revectoring focus  
revenge bedtime procrastination  
reversing charges  
reversing myself on always being backward-compatible  
reviving moxie mixology  
revving on the red line  
rhyming with no reason  
riding into the danger zone  
rising above the noise and confusion just to get a glimpse beyond this illusion  
risk managing  
rockin' down the highway

rolling the dice  
rolling with changes  
ruminating  
runnin' against the wind  
running a complex bait and switch on neighborhood squirrels  
running all the traps  
running amok  
running calling wildfire  
running for the roses  
running through happy cabbage  
running with scissors  
rushing in where angels fear to tread  
sarcastically saying good luck with that  
saving face  
saving up things to only do once during the next blue moon  
saying "Just sayin'"  
saying things in a more difficult way than it is to do them  
scheduling  
schmoozing  
scratching in my easy chair  
scratching in second gear  
scribbling  
scrunching  
scrutinizing  
scurryfunging  
seeing alligators later as opposed to sooner  
seeing spots  
seeing the world through my own knot hole  
seeking comfort amidst chaos  
seizing the day  
selling pancakes at flat earthers conventions  
sensing empiricism  
separating the wheat from the chaff  
shake, rattle, & rolling  
shaking it off  
shaping the future  
sharing a little known and uncanny ability to whistle many popular guitar solos  
sharing quiet moments  
shouting "Wolverines" at passing helicopters  
shouting "it's all over but the shouting!"  
sidestepping the pleasure principle  
silencing critics  
singing Babalu  
sitting here watching the wheels go round and round  
skedaddling  
skipping to the end  
skylarking  
slip slidin' away  
slipping into torpor  
slowing my roll  
smiling back at blue skies  
snacking  
sneezing even in the absence of anything to be sneezed at  
sniffing out perpetrators  
soldiering on

sondering  
sorting  
sounding glib  
spanning  
speaking many a true word in jest  
speaking neologisticly  
spilling beans  
spinning yarns  
splintering into irreconcilable realities  
spontaneous cross partition dodecaphony  
spreading phonus balonus  
staging my own "ted talks" presentations for the pets  
standing between the devil and the deep blue sea  
standing too long with the refrigerator door open  
staying in when it's monkeys outside  
steering clear of obviously hell bound hand baskets  
stewing  
stirring  
stone's throw trekking  
storyscaping with buzz words  
straying from the herd  
stretching the truth  
striving to be boombdiggity  
suffering borborygm  
suffering fools sadly  
suggesting alternate endings  
suggesting horses for courses to get it right  
summarily dismissing  
summarizing with the phrase it is what it is  
supercharging my resume with action verbs  
super-imposing  
supposing  
surrounding myself with my wits  
surviving resistentialism  
sustaining metaphysical productivity in a virtual world  
swilling the planters with bumbo  
takin' it to the streets  
taking credit  
taking midnight trains goin' anywhere  
taking prolixity to the next level  
taking the path less traveled  
taking things personally  
tapping  
teaching self-hypnosis techniques using the disk defragmenter action pane and the Man of La Mancha soundtrack  
tellin' it to the birds  
telling it like it is  
telling people I'm already gone  
telling people these aren't the droids you're looking for  
telling people they can't handle the truth!  
telling the science editor "no comet"  
telling whoppers  
tessellating shapes  
testing limits  
testing patience  
testing strength

testing the waters  
thinking something is remarkable when in fact it is marginally markable at best  
throwing serious shade  
throwing shapes  
tickling peoples fancies  
tolerating humbug candy  
tootsie-roll sculpting  
tracking shipments  
tracking the bluebird of happiness  
traipsing about  
transforming the transactional  
translating the classics into grammelot  
treading on thin ice  
trending unnecessary spin-offs  
tricking mood rings  
tricking the dog with an invisible ball  
triplicating entendre  
tripping  
tripping the light fantastically  
trying to be more like Hank Kimble (from Green Acres)  
trying to keep it around the ol' double-nickel  
turning blue  
turning corners  
turning laudatory exclamations into sarcasm by the tone of my voice  
turning left  
turning off the lights  
turning tables  
turning up out of the blue  
turtle collecting  
TV remote control controlling  
twistin' the night away  
underestimating Hot Tamales candy  
unnecessary rhyming  
unnecessary transliteration  
unsulking  
updating  
upsetting apple carts  
using access to low level graphical primitives to make interface objects that have new perceivable affordances  
using cookies as the utensil to eat ice cream  
using custom query parameters to determine goal conversion rates with a tracking code in an asynchronous snippet to display significant changes in data patterns  
using inference verbs as quotative frame in argumentative colloquial phrases  
using PGP on files containing PHI  
using prospective hindsight to confound future success  
using rhyming greetings at high level meetings  
using self-deprecating humor to entertain morons  
using unknown knowns to deconstruct my own knowability hypothesis  
vaccinating for pac-man fever  
vertical mustering  
visual storytelling by means of the Kuleshov effect  
voting against the candidate I want to lose instead of for the one I want to win  
walking in the shade with my blues on parade  
watching bloopers  
watching for bumpkins in rural settings  
waxing philodoxically  
wearing frumpy clothes

wearing my heart on my sleeve  
wearing thin  
wearing unfamiliar pants  
weathering a tempest in a teapot  
weathering forecasted impact days  
whisking  
whispering in the sounds of silence  
whistling Dixie  
whistling in the wind  
whistling past graveyards  
winding down  
winding up  
wishing this summer wind would bring back paradise  
wondering what the big deal is about Jessie's girl  
working like a charm  
working on my wave  
wrangling with analysis paralysis  
believing nothing is impossible if you're asking the right animated mouse.