



LINGUISTIC LOONEY TUNES -- more FREE Web translations!!

You will perhaps remember an Esprit newsletter from last year about the "free" Web translators being offered online and their hilarious results that made you laugh (or cry, if your business suffered the consequences of using such a "free" tool).

The search engine Google recently added an automatic translation tool to their services, so we took a few small excerpts of easy English text from a couple of recent Esprit translations, to test it out. We then had the text retranslated back to English for comparison, not an easy task, given the absence of any common-sense grammatical structure in the first foreign-language translation. We think you'll agree with us once again that this kind of "free translation" belongs more in a looney cartoon than in any professional business communications.



FRENCH EXAMPLE - GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU BUGGY-EYED!!

ORIGINAL ENGLISH TEXT:

While rocking your newborn to sleep, you begin to wonder about your child's future. Will she be a doctor, a lawyer, a rock star, the prime minister? All is possible - as long as you factor post- secondary education into those daydreams. Now wake up to the harsh reality of the skyrocketing costs of tuition you and your child will be facing years down the road. ... Rather than entering the mutual fund roller-coaster style investment of individual plans, these pooled plans buy only secure government bonds to ensure a safe rate of return. XX's other unique selling point is that they are "as flexible as the law will allow us to be." Unlike traditional scholarship plans that have oodles of rules, XX has tried to reduce the number of limitations for parents. Some highlights include lack of age restriction when starting an RESP.

BACK-TRANSLATION OF GOOGLE'S "FREE" VERSION:

All the while toppling over your newborn in order to sleep, you begin to question yourself about your child's futures. Will she be a doctor, lawyer, a star of rock, the Prime Minister? All is possible? For as long as you the secondary education of pole of factor in these ones it can daydream. Awaken-now someone to the hard reality of the arising costs rising of education you and your child will be several years of floor coverings at the bottom of the road. ... Rather than to write the investment of model of coaster of roller of investment funds mutualist of various plans, these shared plans buy only the bonds of government blocked to ensure a sure yield. Is XX's the other point of single sale that they are des? aces flexible because the law will enable us to be? With the difference of the traditional plans of purse which have oodles rules, XX tried to reduce the number of limitations for parents. Some climaxes include the lack of restriction of age by beginning a RESP.



SHOOTING YOURSELF IN THE FOOT (OR ELSEWHERE) - SPANISH

ORIGINAL ENGLISH TEXT:

First Stage® Base Coat is a specially formulated acrylic copolymer designed to seal resilient and hard floor surfaces and serve as a base coat for waxes and finishes. A clear, non-yellowing floor seal that preserves and protects floor surfaces while at the same time providing a bonding surface for tight adhesion of floor finish. First Stage® Base Coat is easy to use and requires no special application procedures. Blockade areas to be stripped or finished. Floors will be

very slippery until dry. Make sure your floor has been stripped, thoroughly rinsed, and is dry prior to sealing. Use a clean bucket, wringer and wet mop specifically designed for finish application. Put a plastic can liner in mop bucket if bucket is not clean.

BACK-TRANSLATION OF GOOGLE'S "FREE" VERSION:

The primary layer below of Stage® is an acrylic copolymer specially formulated designed to seal surfaces and resisting and hard service of the floor as lower layer for the waxes and playoffs [another run-through gave: as it castrates low for waxes and the end]. A clear, seal of the floor the no-to yellow that it preserves and it protects floor surfaces all the while that at the same time that it supplies a surface of connections for the tightened adhesion of the floor [another run-through gave: whereas in the same time that provides a surface of entailment for the adhesion tightened of the end of the floor]. The primary layer below of Stage® is easy to use and does not require any special procedure of the use. Areas of the siege blockade will peel or to be floor finish. The floors will be very glided until they be dry. Make sure that your floor will have peeled, thoroughly lightened [or: clarified], and that it be dry before the sealing with sealing wax. Place a tracer of lines from the plastic can inside the seed pearl the garbage can if the garbage can is not clean.

If you didn't catch last year's newsletter on the various "free" Internet translation tools, you can download the PDF from our website to you. And while you are checking Translation Page where you can read bloopers, the kind of nightmare we as professional translators.



- The Esprit Translation Team