

Tom Swiftie Competition

In the October 2007 issue of Ozwords readers were challenged to compose a 'Tom Swiftie', a tautological construction in which 'the verb and/or adverb said much the same thing as the quotation preceding it' as in "I bought the drinks", Tom shouted'. We added the rule that the Tom Swiftie should contain an Australian reference. A number of entries gave us not 'Tom Swifties; but 'Untommed Swifties'. Example: "'Yes, I ate all the pies", Warne scoffed'; but we accepted these since our instructions may not have been absolutely clear.

Some Entries to the Ozwords Tom Swiftie Competition
(Alphabetical by surname of entrant)

'I will be retiring soon,' John Howard said shortly, to the media throng, prior to the election.

D. Andrews, Qld

'The spines on my echidna cause irritation,' Tom pointed out petulantly.

'The rock wallaby always lives in the hills, never on flat country,' Tom explains.

'I would never plant conifers on Kangaroo Island,' Tom opines.

'I bought all the ski-lifts from that other Tom, Tom Grogin,' Tom owns up.

N. Birch, Vic

'Here comes a fabulous technicolor yawn,' Tom gushed.

'We should do just what Patricks say,' Tom submitted.

'That bloke leads a pretty easy life,' Tom observed wryly.

His job was to be a rouseabout, Tom gathered.

'Big Chief Not Show Up for Friday Pow Wow,' Tom tommed.

'We must keep our rage in good working order,' Gough maintained.

The Northern Territory is to have a new Chief Minister, it was declared on the weekend.

A. Bishop, NSW

'In 1880, Ned Kelly was hanged,' Tom executed breathlessly.

'Keith and Nicole should get married,' Tom proposed engagingly.

(Gemma Bloomfield)

'The Gondwana Voices children's choir sing well together,' Tom intoned.

'The Whitlam Government was sacked in 1975,' said Tom dismissively.

(Gillian Bloomfield)

'I have sold my Ballarat gold mine,' Tom exclaimed.

'In Australia, we overtake on the right,' explained Tom in passing.

'In the Fifth Test against England, Australia has closed its innings,'

Tom declared.

'Nowadays we call it Uluru,' Tom airs rockily.
(N. Bloomfield)

'I caught the ball from Cazaly on the second attempt,' Tom remarked.
'In 1901, Australia emerged as a federation,' Tom stated.
'On 14th February 1966, Australia changed to decimal currency' Tom expounded.
'High-profile sports people should be careful how they use a mobile phone', Shane warned.
'The election for Bowman was so close we had to check all the votes,' Tom recounted.

(J. Leverington)
The Bloomfield 'Consortium', WA

He gave such good mates rates, that his mates rated him great!
'What a wedgie she had,' he said with a wide grin.
'I've brought two slabs to the barbie,' he said, brimming with joy.
'Don't come the raw prawn with me!' he said, clawing the air.
'The team flashed us a brown eye!' she said, with her brown eyes wide open.
He chucked so many sickies, that the boss eventually sickened of it and sacked him!
'Don't you be so cocky,' said the teacher, cocking his finger at the student.
They stacked the branch meeting with so many ring-ins that the floor collapsed.
'That's the best technicolour yawn I've seen,' he chuckled.
R. Calitz, Tas

'Sorry,' Tom blushed ruddily.
'I'm Premier of Queensland,' Anna remarked blithely.
'Centrelink lost my file and I had to complete all the paperwork again,' Tom said resignedly.
'I'm from Bega,' Tom grinned cheesily.
'I'm not going to move the picnic because of those bulldog nests,' Tom said defiantly.
'Can you give me a double to the shops?' Tom asked dinkily.
'Where's Peter? He's needed at the Stockade,' Tom said lawlessly.
'I think I'm going to be sick,' Tom laughed liquidly.
'I've had too much to drink,' Tom lamented groggily.
'I had a little bit of luck on the TAB,' Tom said winsomely.
'I always fly Qantas,' Tom said airily.
'I've just read Capricornia,' Tom remarked tropically.
'I have a deep bass voice,' Tom said straitly.
'I've found a solution to the refugee problem,' Tom added pacifically.
'Patrick White is a world-class author,' Tom insisted nobly.
'The bottle of Grange smashed when I dropped it,' Tom whined.
'I've renewed my subscription to Quadrant,' Tom rejoined.
G. Case, Qld

'I've met someone on the Big Pond chatroom, and now we're getting married!' Tom espoused, unseen.
S. Darlington, Qld

'You're from Wagga Wagga!' Tom echoed.
'I guess I do sound like a kookaburra,' Tom laughed.
'I grew up in the Jarrah forests of the South-west,' Tom said woodenly.
'I'm wintering over at Mawson,' Tom said icily.
'We're going to Hanging Rock for a picnic,' Tom said jauntily.
'I worked in the Australian clothing industry,' Tom said, redundantly.
'I guess there's a bushfire risk in the Dandenongs,' Tom hazarded.
'Those bloody animals haven't left a blade of grass in the paddocks for me sheep,' Tom said ruefully.
'I'd say you're a bit of a drongo,' Tom estimated roughly.
'Once upon a time we owned this land,' Tom said blackly.
'I hate Warrnambool's weather,' Tom blustered.
'You can't tell me Melbourne's climate hasn't changed,' Tom said dryly.
'I crossed the Gibber Plains on foot', Tom said stonily.
'I want to go to the Hunter Valley', Tom whined.
'We're on stage four water restrictions now,' Tom said witheringly.
'I can handle stingrays,' Tom said with venom.
'My government will deliver tax relief,' Tom said cuttingly.
'I believe in outsourcing,' Tom barely managed to say.
'...and I had to pay ten bleedin' quid to get here,' Pom whinged.
C. Davis, Vic

'I staggered and finally fell in Bennelong,' said John Howard awkwardly.
'I am devastated at eating the tourist,' said the crocodile tearfully.
'I love stage shows,' said Paul Keating musically.
'I ran a fast 400m in the 2000 Olympics,' said Kathy Freeman quickly.
'I was Miss Universe,' said Jennifer Hawkins beautifully.
'I really wanted the Prime Ministership,' said Peter Costello aspiringly/covetously.
'I have lost my trousers,' panted Malcolm Fraser.
'I ran a fast marathon,' puffed Steve Monagetti.
'I cannot say I'm sorry,' said John Howard apologetically.
'I am tired of Changi,' said Ernest Dunlop wearily.
'Tell me how many prizes I have won,' quizzed Barry Jones.
'I am very dangerous,' hissed the Australian Tiger Snake.
'I am the king of rock,' shouted Johnny O'Keefe.
'The Governor General has cancelled my Prime Ministership,' said Gough dismissively.
'I write a lot,' said David Williamson playfully.
'That movie was rubbish,' said David Stratton critically.
'I don't carry off babies,' said the Dingo deviously.
'Someone has picked my pouch,' said Skippy accusingly.

'I hate abattoirs,' said the lamb scarily/bleatingly.
'Nothing will save the Governor General,' said Gough dismissively.
'I am a well dressed bastard,' said Sir Les Patterson sartorially.
W.H.J. Edwards, Vic

'Tyres need inflating?' the petrol-station attendant asked airily.
'They are a bit low,' I replied flatly.
'Exhaust and alignment check?' he fired back straight away.
'Not enough time!' I responded shortly.
As we drove out of the service-station, my passenger said, 'What's that on the road—a head?'
L. Evans, WA

'I'm not sure dredging Port Philip Bay is a such good idea,' said Tom bedraggedly.
'China is buying all we can dig up,' said Tom resourcefully
F. Fair, Vic

'Your armour's wet, Ned,' the copper observed rusti –cally. (rusty Kelly).
'I was born in the saddle,' the bandicoot swaggered.
'A jumbuck!' grasped the swagman taking stock.
'Don't look at me like that!' the larrikin effused repeatedly.
'I can hang upside down,' the galah caught on, parrot fashion.
'We're happy little Vegemites!' the kiddies voiced inadvertently.
'The Barrier Reef is wonderful!' the diver bubbled breathily.
'No water restrictions here!' the market gardener piped up round the clock.
J. Ferguson, SA

'Billy can, mulga wood, Dunedoo,' Tom positively emphasised.
'Kismet: Hardy Ruddy Victory, sorry to say,' Dr (Tom) Nelson delivered laboriously.
'Too muddy for Murray Cod,' carped Tom, perched on the river bank.
'Time to flee,' Tom fled doggedly away after scratching the racing greyhound.
'A solitary she-oak without a mate will pine away,' opined lonesome Tom.
'A close shave,' Tom saw a buzzing blowfly licked by a bearded dragon.
J. Foster, ACT

'I have a boomerang tattooed on my arm,' said Tom indelibly.
(C. Gregoriou)
'I can't find my Woop Woop address-book anywhere,' Tom said listlessly.
(L. Gregoriou)
C. and L. Gregoriou, Vic

'We tried to give the Poms another chance,' declared Ponting, bowling them over.
'We will give the Poms another chance,' Ponting declared.

'Our new currency will be the Royal,' expounded Prime Minister Menzies in 1966.
'Our new currency will be named for the Queen,' Prime Minister Menzies expounded royally in 1966.

P. A. Harley, SA

'I'm heading for the Outback,' announced Tom distantly.
'Crocodiles are prehistoric predators,' answered Tom savagely.
'We should do something about global warming,' Tom pronounced heatedly.
'I'm not fond of mutton,' Tom admitted sheepishly.
'The Traveston Dam will never hold water,' said Tom drily.
'I'm moving to Queensland,' Tom stated.
'It's a toss of the coin whether Hewitt will win the match,' said Tom flippantly.
'We should have The Ashes here in Australia,' remarked Tom burningly.
'You can see the Southern Cross clearly tonight,' said Tom brightly.
'We need more planes in Australia,' said Tom airily.
'I shall leave my money to Saint Vinnie's,' announced Tom willingly.
'I need to have a leak,' complained Tom peevisly.
'At Coober Pedy they're still using lye soap,' confided Tom caustically.
'Cane Toads are invading my garden,' croaked Tom.
'We should bring back our troops from Iraq,' said Tom disarmingly.
'Citrus fruits make me ill,' said Tom pithily.
'I'm going duck-shooting at Kerang,' Tom announced gamely.
'Why did you starch my shirt?' asked Tom stiffly.
'Someone has been wearing my lambs' wool coat,' bleated Tom.
'I'm going to start growing herbs,' said Tom sagely.
'We shall camp at Lorne?' suggested Tom tentatively.
'Would you like to go fishing at Stradbroke?' Tom angled.
'I can't remember what groceries I have to buy,' said Tom listlessly.
'This guitar has a broken part,' said Tom fretfully.
'The flying foxes have destroyed all the mangoes,' Tom moaned fruitlessly.
'I intend to travel across the Nullarbor,' announced Tom plaintively.
'I'm going on a short excursion to Tasmania,' said Tom jauntily.
'I really like South Australian champagne,' Tom bubbled.
'I have ten aunts, nine cousins, and one uncle in Canberra,' Tom related.
'The fireworks on the Bridge were spectacular,' Tom enthused radiantly.
'I'm learning to play the piano,' slurred Tom.
'Books about the Northern Territory are all the same,' said Tom indifferently.
'My birthday is on Australia Day,' said Tom presently.
'There's money down here at the bottom of the Harbour,' Tom gurgled.
'I'd like to be a footy referee,' decided Tom.
'You're only a hayseed from Hay,' chaffed Tom.
'I'm not in favour of a nuclear reactor in Australia,' Tom exploded.

C. Hartley, Qld

'I've once again failed to clone an Aussie merino,' Tom declared sheepishly.
'Last night I counted 339,406 merinoes,' said Tom sleeplessly.

'I've been standing to attention here in Duntroon for 3 hours,' said Tom stiffly.
'Anzac stew isn't spicy like Indian dishes,' said Tom currying flavour.
P. Jacovou, Vic

'Want an insider tip on equine flu?' Tom whispered hoarsely.
'I recognise the sovereignty of the Principality of Hutt River,' Tom stated independently.
P. Kelly, WA

'I have only got clubs, spades and diamonds, so you win,' said John heartlessly.
'I shoot the bull's eye of the target every time,' said John unerringly.
J. Kenning, Vic

'Watch me scatter this termites' nest,' said Tom disturbingly.
F. Leishman, Qld

'I used to be famous for knowing how to bowl a maiden over,' said Shane rakishly.
D. W. Magann, SA

'I'm drowning,' the Jolly Swagman concluded.
'We'll stop batting now,' Ponting declared.
'I'm the Lithgow Flash,' Marjorie finished quickly.
'I've got the shits,' Sir Les Patterson blurted uncontrollably.
'I'm hosting yet another TV show AGAIN!' Eddie returned painfully.
'60 minutes was my best work,' Ray Martin blandly reported.
'My fellow Australians, I've lost my Seat!' little Johnnie ended historically.
'What 50 million?' Alan Bond absent-mindedly recalled.
'I'm a bloody good actor,' Russell crowed.
S. Magann, SA

'I'm gunna close our innings now and have a crack at the other mob before stumps,' the captain declared.
'I've four mouths to feed—no, five,' the battler recounted.
'Oops, I think I'm going to come already!' he ejaculated prematurely.
E. Marsh, Qld

'I'm from Wunghnu,' Tom admitted a little sheepishly.
'The colt has got away!' Tom announced regretfully.
N. Moncrieff, Vic

'Where's that flash blighter from Lightning Ridge?' Tom thundered ominously.
'I'm from Magpie Creek,' Tom carolled gaily.
'Bundaberg's a bit hot for me,' Tom said gingerly.
'Not many trees on the Nullarbor,' Tom said baldly.
'Picnic at Hanging Rock?' Tom asked jauntily.

'But it's not a Coonawarra red,' Tom said whiningly.
'There's a mob of merinos blocking the way,' Tom said bleatingly.
'That "little bridge" is called the "Coathanger",' Tom said archly.
'My money's on Collingwood to win the Grand Final,' Tom said gamely.
'Blokes from Broome won't stand being pushed around,' Tom said sweepingly.
'Perth is quite remote,' Tom said distantly.
'I'm from Argadagada,' Tom gargled mournfully.
P. Moncrieff, Vic

'I just love Mardi Gras,' Tom said gaily.
'I don't have a photographic memory,' Tom said negatively.
'I just don't like the Northern Territory in summer,' Tom said heatedly.
'I don't know who our Prime Minister is,' said Tom, his face all ruddy with embarrassment.
'We have to get this block of land levelled,' Tom said lazily.
'It's Sir Les Patterson,' Tom slobbered.
'They're Grey Nomads,' said Tom retiringly.
'I don't know what a Jumbuck is, Tom said sheepishly.
A. Morice, Qld

'I'm afraid I shot those Eastern Greys,' he rued.
'So I moved back to Queensland to retire,' he re-stated finally.
'Kookaburra Curry— that's funny,' Rogan joshed (not at all sheepishly).
M. Pikler, ACT

'Our paddock is over-run with kangaroos,' said Tom ruefully.
'I couldn't recall the second verse of Waltzing Matilda,' said Tom sheepishly.
'I'm going to google Wombats,' said Tom cursorily.
'Send her down Hughie,' said Tom absorbently.
'I had to give up my staff job on The Ghan,' railed Tom resignedly.
'I'll play Two Up any time of the day,' said Tom flippantly.
'We've run out of damper,' said Tom crustily.
'I lost my diary notes on quokkas,' said Tom listlessly.
'Kylie Minogue has a flawless rear,' said Tom endearingly.
'I admit to using roo skin products,' said Tom furtively.
'Look at that long-legged Aussie bird,' said Tom emusingly.
'Flu stopped me from attending the Melbourne Cup,' said Tom hoarsely.
'Bring back Steve Waugh,' said Tom testily.
'Bring Back Shane Warne,' said Tom textily.
'There's no water in the billabong,' said Tom drily.
'I chased that Dingo for ages,' said Tom doggedly.
'Koalas! Wombats! Bilbies!' said Tom iconically.
'I saw the Outback's biggest willy-willy,' said Tom cockily.
'I lost y map of the location of Lasseter's Lost Reef,' said Tom giltily.
'I'd sooner be an Ocker than a knocker,' Tom said pungently.
S. Robson, Qld

'I'm no woolly-headed jumbuck clone,' bleated Dolly sheepishly.
'Lay down your weapons Ned Kelly,' ordered the constable disarmingly.
'No Dave, I'm saving myself till after we're married,' insisted Mabel impenetrably.
'Lay down your weapons, Ned Kelly!' ordered Tom disarmingly.
'I'm unemployed but getting Centrelink welfare,' said Tom dolefully.
'I'm getting a bit tipsy,' said Tom, groggin'.
M. Ronan, Vic

'We're a federation now,' NSW states in union with Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia on 1 January 1901.
'The Turkish guns are blowing us to pieces,' the ANZAC officer exploded finally.
(Below is a Swiftie short story):
'It's time,' winningly extemporised Whitlam.
'If you persist, we'll block supply,' Fraser interrupted provisionally.
'Whitlam, your government is finished,' concluded the Governor-General dismissively.
'Maintain your rage,' Whitlam and his supporters fumed continuously.
P. Sainsbury, NSW

'I'll let you in on a secret, Possums,' Dame Edna admitted furtively.
'But I am producing the most vintage in the Barossa!' Tom whined copiously.
'I have totally obliterated the Nullarbor!' he exclaimed catastrophically.
'Sydney or the bush. The bush or Sydney,' he conversed flippantly.
'We love migrating north to Hervey Bay,' spouted the whales, transported.
'You may have the first three Gold Lotto tickets but I have the next one!' he held forth triumphantly.
'I operate the Snowy Mountains Scheme,' he piped with tunnel vision.
'Here we are at the Sydney Opera House,' the taxi driver delivered dramatically.
'I will immunise every Australian child!' the politician interjected pointedly.
'I have revised the results of every exam paper at Queensland University,' remarked the professor mistakenly.
'What do you think of my Jacky Howe holster?' sweated the gun shearer.
Mrs H. Schmidt, Qld

'My grandson got an I.B. score of 38 out of 45 which equates to a V.C.E. Enter score of 97.7%,' bragged Grandma calculably.
B. Shrives, Vic

'I am running for a seat in Canberra,' said Tom breathlessly.
'I'm off to Mildura to pick oranges,' Tom said fruitfully.
Mrs B. Stewart, Vic

'The Sturt Highway goes on for ever and ever,' complained Tom endlessly.
(B. Swanton)

'I've just been bitten by a taipan,' said Tom with venom.
'I can read you like a book—Braille system,' said Tom touchingly.
(James Swanton)
'All our Namatjira paintings have been stolen,' Tom said artlessly.
(Jane Swanton)
'I've just written my first Aussie opera,' said Tom composedly.
(Kurt Swanton)
The Swanton Family, Vic

'I shot the possums,' Dame Edna reported loudly.
D. Tribe, NSW

'Drifting rudderless,' Noah described his arc.
'Fran Bailey has just been elected,' the Divisional Returning Officer recounted.
'Too close to call,' Anthony Green equivocated.
'Fire!' the rifleman reported.
'Fire,' the dragon belched.
'Picture this!' snapped Steve Parish.
'Me! Me! Me!,' Alan Jones parroted.
'I'm adding the verses,' Stanza reckoned.
'No! It's a long way around the track,' neighed Phar Lap.
'I'm under 89 kgs,' Danny Green weighed in.
'A blow-out,' Craig Lowndes exploded.
'It's my election,' Kevin Rudd claimed.
'I'll finish this innings now and fight," declared Waugh.
'I'm Orca,' he wailed.
'Tomorrow...fine light winds,' Mike Bailey forecast breezily.
'I have my just desserts,' Anna Pavlova said fairly.
'Every seven days,' Baby Bob cried weakly.
'I'll look at your exam again,' the teacher remarked.
'Walk slowly,' the teacher tortoise.
'That may or may not be an herbaceous border,' Edna Walling hedged.
'Does this dress fit?' she asked wearily.
'My position is unchanged,' John Howard maintained.
'Maintain the rage,' Whitlam continued angrily.
'My Harbour Bridge is finished,' Bradfield rejoined archly.
'We are under enemy gun-fire,' Peter Cosgrove heard the rifleman report.
'Bloody hell! It's night,' he swore darkly.
'Let's have a paddle, Pop,' Ian Thorpe enticed.
'I'm a chocolate crackle,' snapped the serial party-goer.
'Judith, write me a good Aussie poem.'
'The dog sat on the tuckerbox is widely known,' the mutton esky broadcast.
'I've run out of steam,' the Sunbeam kettle whistled drily.
'The boomerang returned quickly,' Skippy telephoned, reverse charging.
'I entered "Most Enchanting Dessert", Norman Lindsay declared for the magic pudding.

'I'm worn out,' Shane SMSed his exhaustion.
'I'm staking out my find,' Lang Hancock claimed.
'Impaled roosters,' cawed a cockatoo.
'Keep your phone in your pocket,' Simone warned.
'I'm Waltzing Matilda,' Amy Taylor danced around the question.
'Not enough holey dollars,' the priest recollected.
'She'll be apples,' Granny Smith invented.
'Not happy, John!' I said with increased interest.
'Keep your meat in Kalgoorlie safe,' he said coolly.
'I'm off,' Petrov explained.
'I've lost my trousers,' Malcolm jockeyed.
'Balmain Boys don't cry,' the phrase from Neville ran.
'I was a socialist,' Julia agreed readily.
'I will have the transplant,' Fiona Coote accepted wholeheartedly.
'Will you be always wed to tennis?' proposed Mr Court.
'I'm packing again,' Shapely reported.
'I'll return,' the human cannon-ball fired back.
'I'm cleaning the floor,' Sadie said vacuously.
'I'm a gladiator/Rabbitoh,' Russell crowed.
'This is my last ride,' deadpanned Lasseter.
'Pass me the baton,' Patrick Johnson relayed.
'It May Gibb some children pleasure,' the author encouraged.
'I wrote "We of the Never-Never",' A Gunn reported.
'It's my namesake,' Premier Carpenter asserted woodenly.
'Tea's ready,' burred Billy.
G. Vagg, NSW

'Yes, I ate all the pies,' Warne scoffed.
'I'm walking!', Gilchrist declared.
'I exposed myself on the internet,' Andrew Quah candidly revealed.
M. Waters, WA

'No, we're the underdogs,' Howard barked.
'But we gave it away,' he later conceded.
'Dear Dad, I've rounded up all them lost sheep,' Dave penned.
'I'm walking,' Gilchrist declared.
V. Waters, [No address]

'Somebody stole my Holden wheels,' yelled Tom tirelessly.
'The Crown Casino marbles always land on odd numbers,' said Tom unevenly.
'I don't have a single worry this side of the black stump,' said Tom carelessly.
R. Yates, Vic