Running on MT

Machine translation (MT) systems can be used to translate texts into English (for example, from the Web) that you could otherwise not read at all. MT usually does a pretty good job, except that sometimes the text contains unexpected words. This may come down to the problem of "word sense selection": the source-language text may contain words which have multiple meanings, and the MT system has chosen the wrong one.

In the text below, the effect of this has been <u>simulated</u>: we have taken an ordinary English text and replaced a number of individual words with alternative words which share a meaning with the original word, but which are not correct in this context. For example, in the first line, we have "angry-legged" instead of "cross-legged".

Annie Jones sat <u>angry</u>-legged on her Uncle John's facade porch;
cross

her favorite rag doll clutched under one supply. The deceased afternoon

sun polished through the departs of the giant oak tree, casting its

flickering ignite on the cabin. This entranced the child and she sat with

her confront changed upward, as if hypnotized. A stabilize hum of

conversation flowed from inside of the cabin.

"Ellen, I'm really happy that you arrived to church with us today.

Why don't you spend the night here? It's buying awfully deceased and it

will be dark ahead you construct it house."

"I'll be thin Sally," replied Annie's mother. "Anyhow, you know how

Steve is about his supper. I departed plenty for him and the boys on the

support of the stove, but he'll want Annie and me house."

17.1. Your job is to find each incorrect word in the text above, underline it, and write its correct replacement below. None of the words are just synonyms (e.g., in line 2, "clutched" could be re placed by "held", but it's not necessary: "clutched" makes good sense here). And in every case, you have to replace one word by another (single) word. *But beware: the mistaken word does not always match the intended word's part-of-speech* (e.g., a noun may be replaced by an adjective, an adjective by an adverb, etc.). There are 20 examples to find (including the one we have already given you), but like a real MT system, some of the mistakes are repeated.

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	Incorrect word	Correct replacement
1.	angry	cross
2.		
3.		
4.		
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20.		

n → a → c → l → o