



Pattiboobs

“Oh, you know what I mean”



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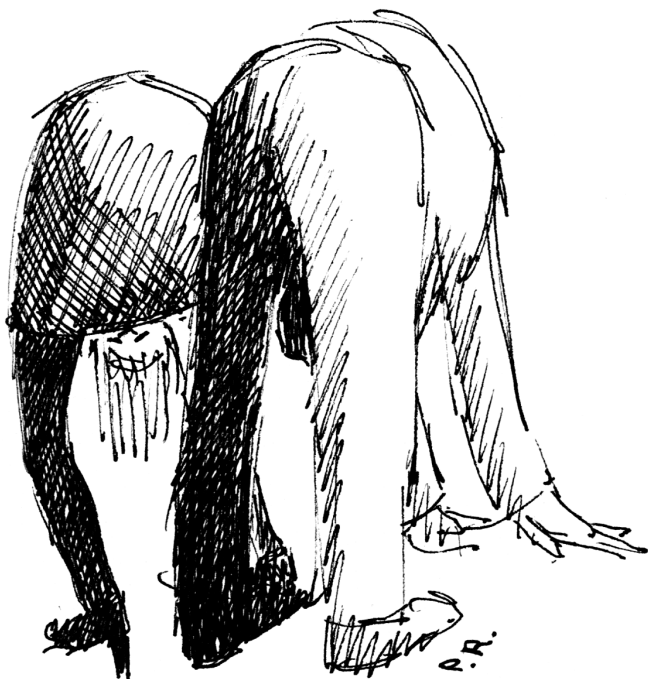
Pattiboobs

“Oh, you know what I mean”



The joy of the English language lies in the games we can play with it. Some people have a spontaneous knack for getting their phrases back to front, sideways on or upside down. Like the real Reverend Spooner of Oxford, who believed “the lord was a shoving leopard” or the fictional Mrs Malaprop, in Sheridan’s play *The Rivals*, who described someone as “the very pineapple of politeness”, Patti Rundall can take the raw egg white of an everyday phrase and whip it into a delicious meringue of originality. She is sometimes astonished if reminded of what she’s just said. Here are a few examples.

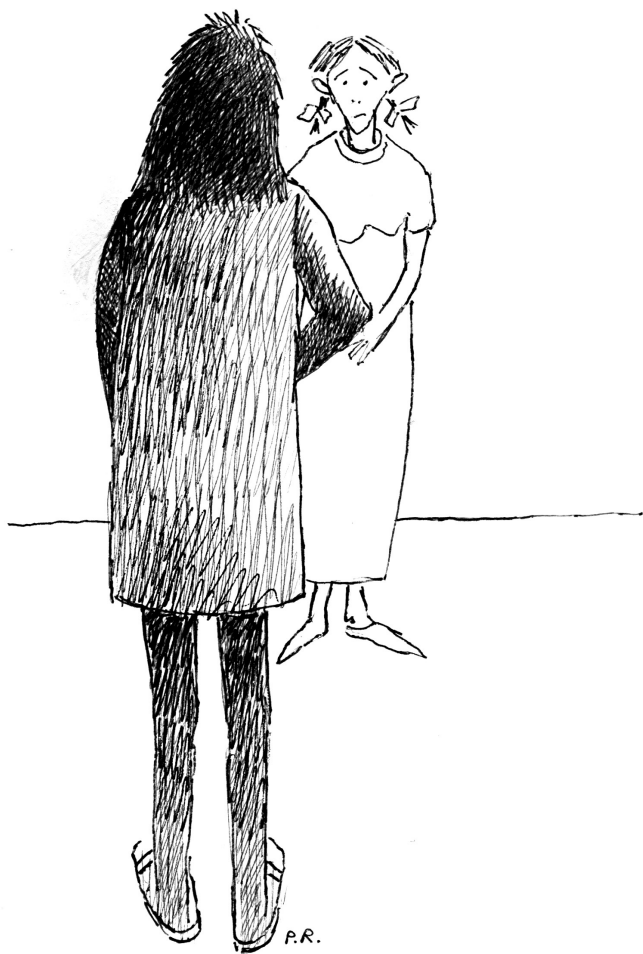
– Gabrielle Palmer, 2015



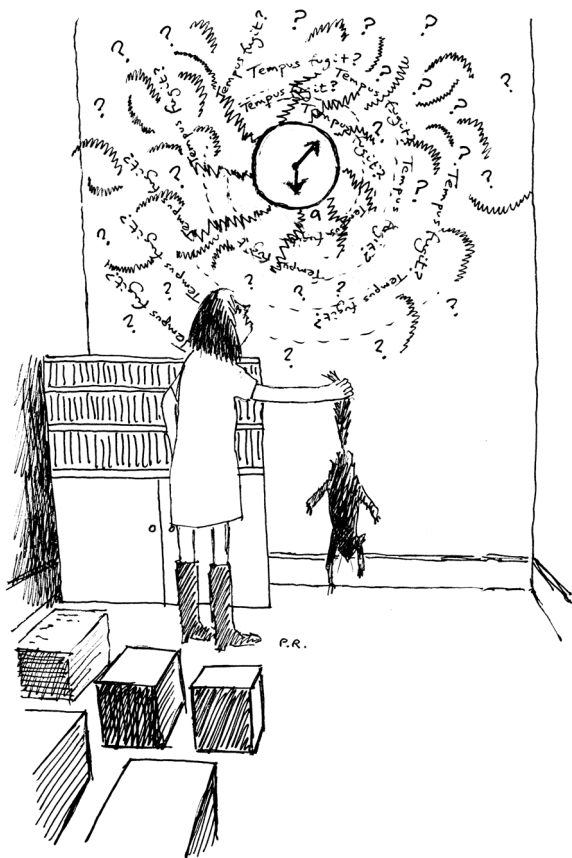
*“Nestlé went away with
its head between its legs.”*

*“You can’t make a pig’s ear
out of a sow’s purse.”*

*“She had longed for a child but she
didn’t know about eggplants.”*



*“Esther... I can’t
remember your name.”*



*“We haven’t got time
to swing a cat in this office.”*

*“Don’t go round and ask James for
a screw, because when I did I was
there all afternoon.”*

James is a friend with a vast supply of spare nails,
rawl plugs, screws etc., who talks quite a lot.

“They should have humped on it.”



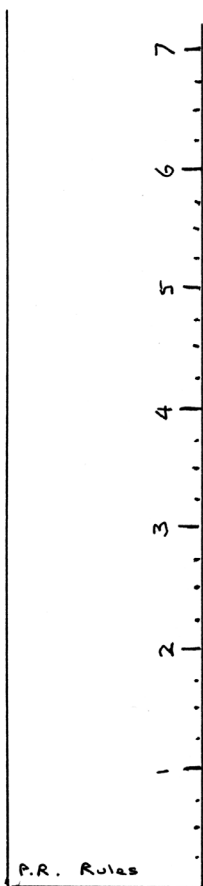
*“Andrew, you’re all voice
and no mouth.”*



*"I popped it in without
meaning it."*



“I’ll poke Gabrielle’s brains.”



*“They’ve given us a small carrot
to hold on to.”*

“I’ll just turn a blind ear.”

*“Don’t worry, everything
is underhand.”*

At an international meeting where
English was a second language for most
participants. Patti:

*“We’ve done a draft of our new
leaflet and when it’s in the flesh,
we’ll use it to elbow Nestlé,
then we’ll let it peter out.”*

Very puzzled faces and a long pause...
finally a German participant politely
asked:

*“Excuse me please,
who is this Pieter Aut?”*

*“I suppose you gentlemen
want to see my teats?”*

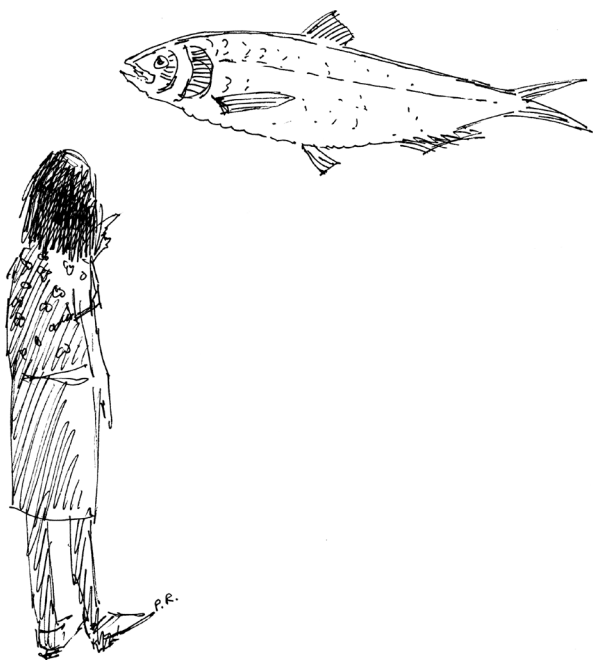
At a meeting with company representatives where Baby Milk Action was presenting examples of faulty bottle teats that had broken in babies' mouths.

*“She knows everything, she’s got
her finger to her ear.”*



*“We’ve been hammering
on MAFF’s doorstep.”*

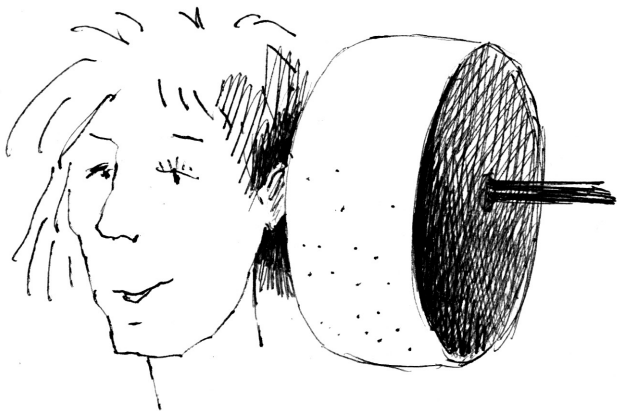
MAFF was the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and dealt with baby food. It was replaced by Defra in 2001.



“Oh it’s just a side-herring.”

*“Andrew, you know what we
ought to have... a little poke.”*

*“You can trust me,
I’m the soul of excretion.”*



"I've got my ear to the grindstone."



*“If I look up my Rs,
I’ll find Professor Holland.”*

Prof Holland was a member of The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



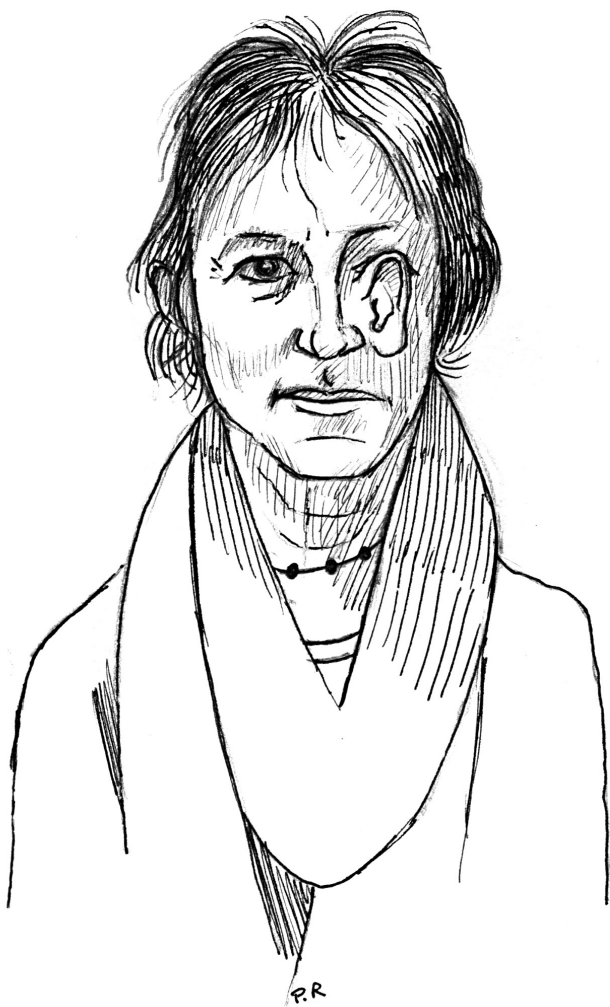
“The boot is on the other shoe”

*“We don’t want to push
breastfeeding down women’s
throats.”*

*“It opened the door to an
avalanche of free milk.”*

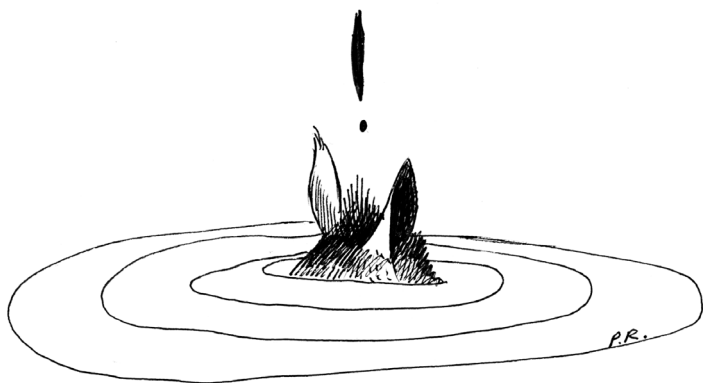


*“I’m either going to be here
or I’m not going to be here,
otherwise I’ll be in Cardiff.”*



“I must put my ear to my eye.”

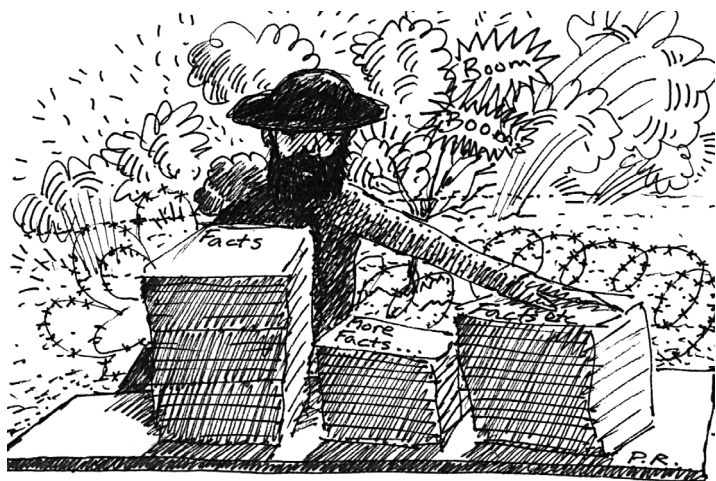
“I’ll let it fester in my brain.”



"No one backs a sinking horse."

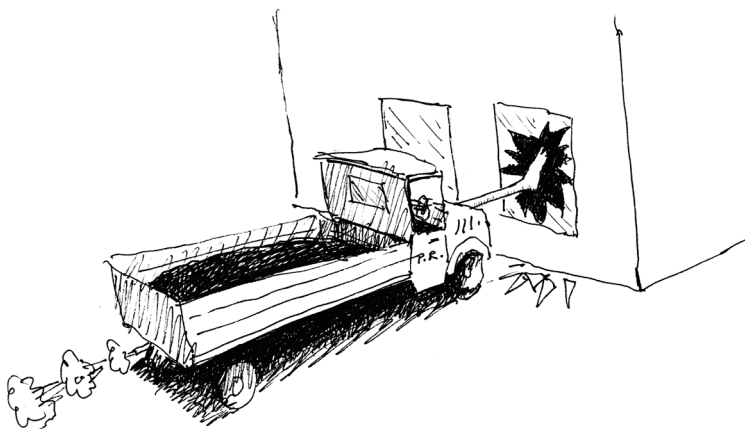
“I just pooped off.”

“We’ll drop them like a spot.”



“He’s a minefield of information.”

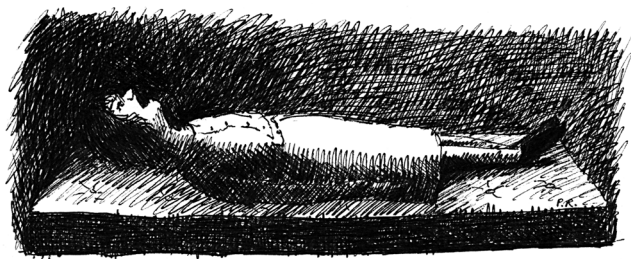
*“Sonali, have you ever had anyone
from Newfoundland?”*



*“That’s where the lorry put its foot
through the window.”*

Baby Milk Action’s first office was in a basement where the window had been damaged in a minor accident.

*“I’ll just roll up my shoulders
and get down to work.”*

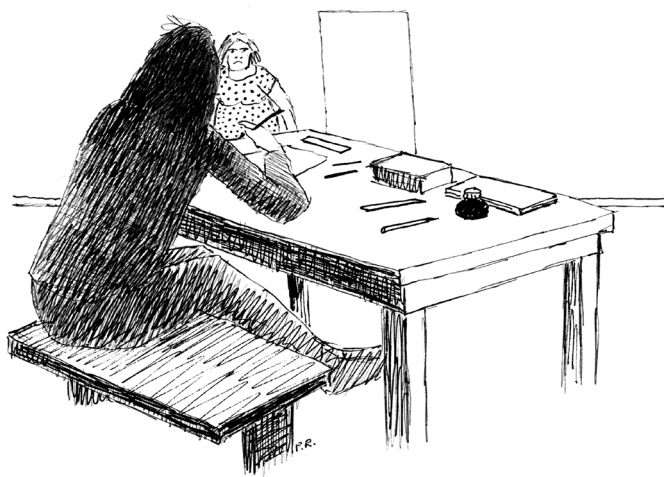


*“I’m so tired I’m
nearly on my feet.”*

*“They’re breathing
down my throat.”*

*“We’ve got to find his Achilles’
tendon... oh no, I mean his Achilles’
foot.”*

*“She knows what side
her butter’s bread.”*



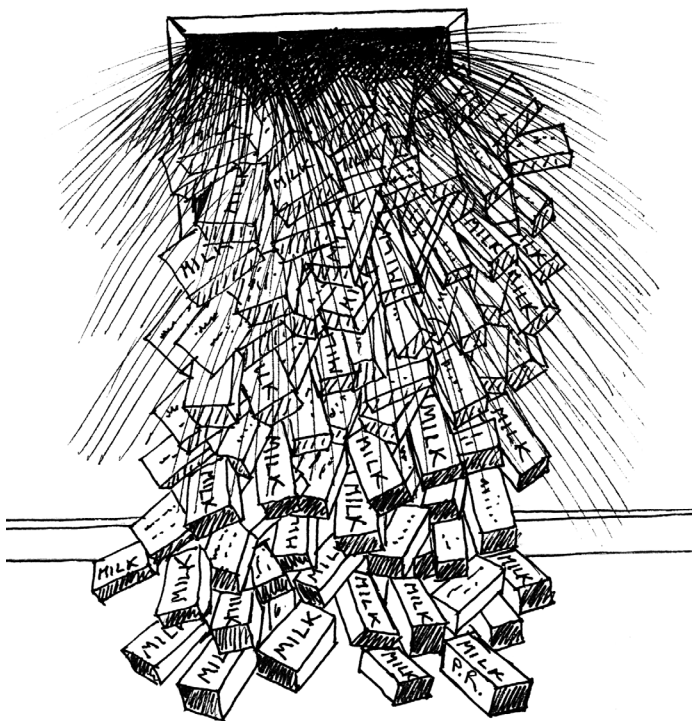
*“Can I just write this down
so I’ll forget it?”*



P.R.

*“We should get it from
the horse’s mouse.”*

*“It’s the hinge-pin of
the whole argument.”*



*“It’s not just people thrashing
bricks through letterboxes.”*



*“I’ve been noticing bollocks
wherever I go.”*

As Patti's colleague at Baby Milk Action, I have experienced Patti's way with words for nearly 20 years, while seeing how effective she is as Baby Milk Action's Policy Director. Despite having no time to swing a cat, she shares her expertise with powerful decision makers, including health ministers, the European Commission, UN bodies and development organisations.

She has helped build national and international coalitions. At Nestlé AGMs, Patti reminds shareholders that this giant corporation is still breaking its promises. She challenges the other baby food and bottle companies who flout regulations. She received an OBE for services to infant nutrition in 2000.

Patti has steered Baby Milk Action for over 30 years. Buying this book helps keep this not-for-profit organisation going.

– Mike Brady, Campaigns Coordinator, Baby Milk Action

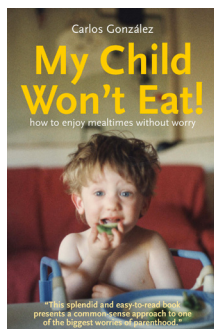
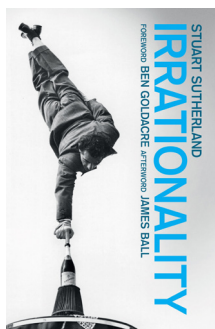
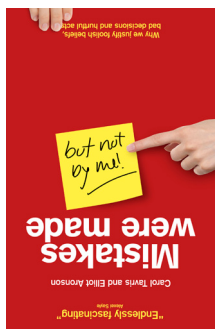
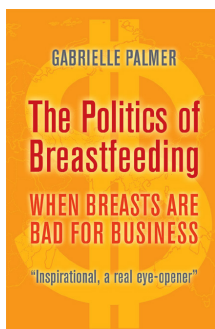
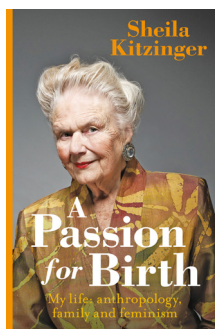
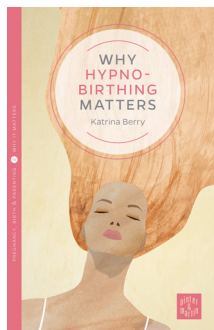
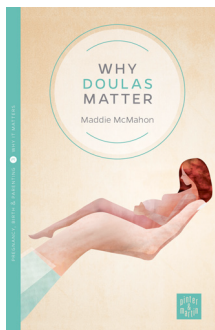
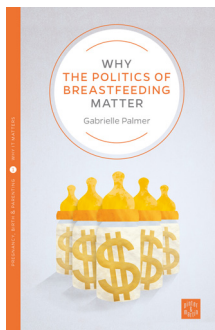
Baby Milk Action is part of the International
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To support campaigns, become a member and
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Also from Pinter & Martin



"I must put my ear to my eye."

Pattiboobs is a hilarious compilation of verbal mishaps and malapropisms by Patti Rundall OBE, Policy Director of Baby Milk Action. Gabrielle Palmer, author of *The Politics of Breastfeeding*, has brought together more than 40 of Patti's best sayings into a delightful little book.

Illustrated by Philip Rundall and with an afterword by Mike Brady, this is an ideal gift.

All profits from this book will be donated to Baby Milk Action, the UK member of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN).



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HUMOUR

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