

## Re: no smoRking?

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  - *Date:* Fri, 18 Aug 2006 09:35:31 +1000
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Domomojo@xxxxxxxx writes:

Jim Breen wrote:

I was at a concert in the fS( in Tokyo years ago where massed little violinists played what the overhead display said was the "French Fork Song".

If "smoking" was spelled "smolking" I could understand the similarity.

But there are far fewer cases where English "~ol~" is transcribed as a katakana "long o", so they're not going to see that correlation.

Remember, to a NSoJ who doesn't know much about English (yet?), language sounds are broken into the coarse chunks known as mora, and they'll be looking for orthographic correspondences at that level.

As I asked Richard above do you know of any other examples where an extra letter is thrown in with seemingly no cause?

Imitation, and over-generalisation. A Japanese will learn that "long a" at the end of a katakana word is probably "er" in English; and a "long o" in the middle of a word is probably "or"; and a few dozen other "rules" based on an over-generalised idea of consistency in English orthography.

The times when those "rules" give the correct results, we don't notice.

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\ "Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to |  
\ recognize a mistake when you make it again." -- Franklin P. |  
\_o\_) Jones |  
Ben Finney

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