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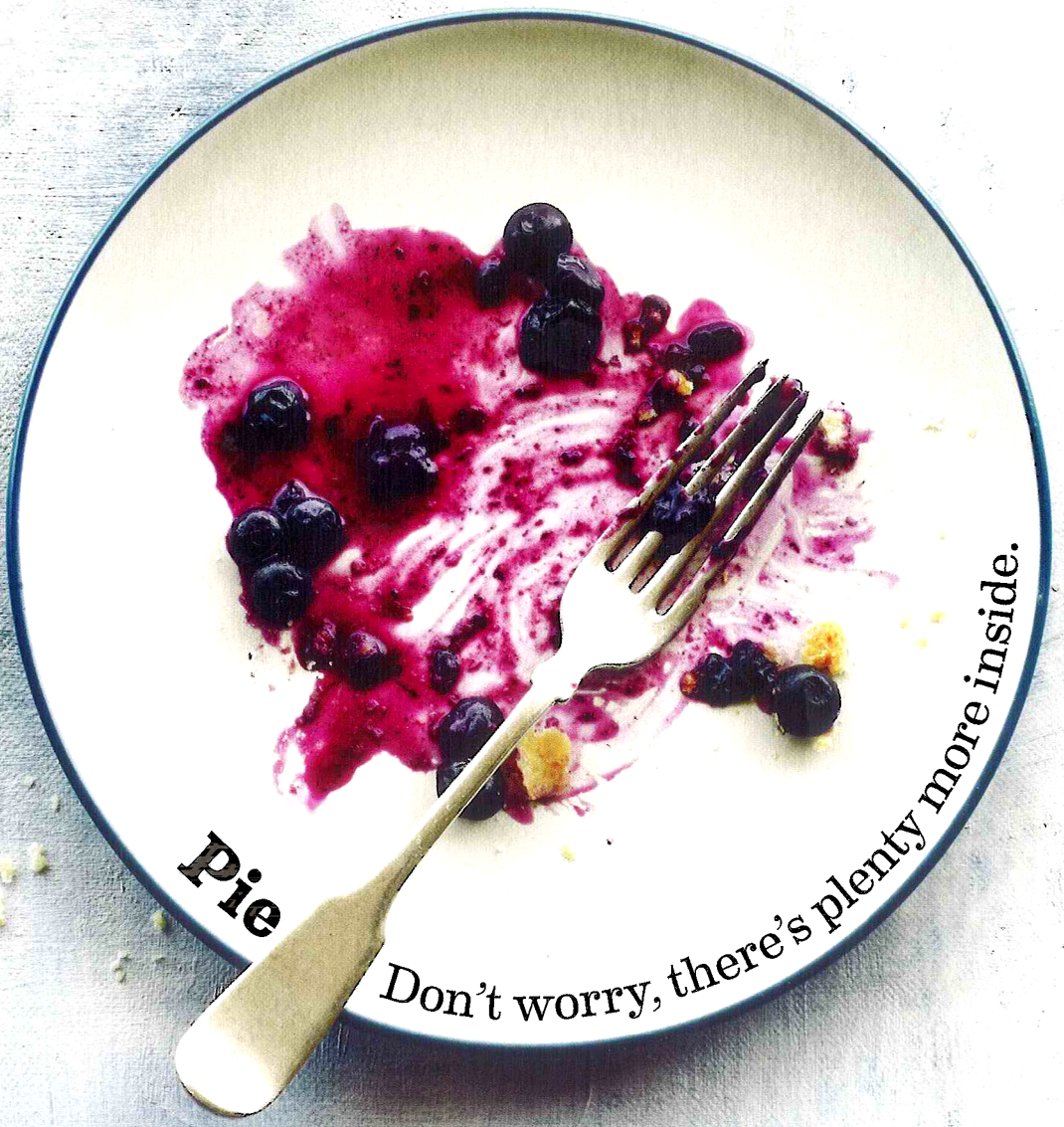
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES



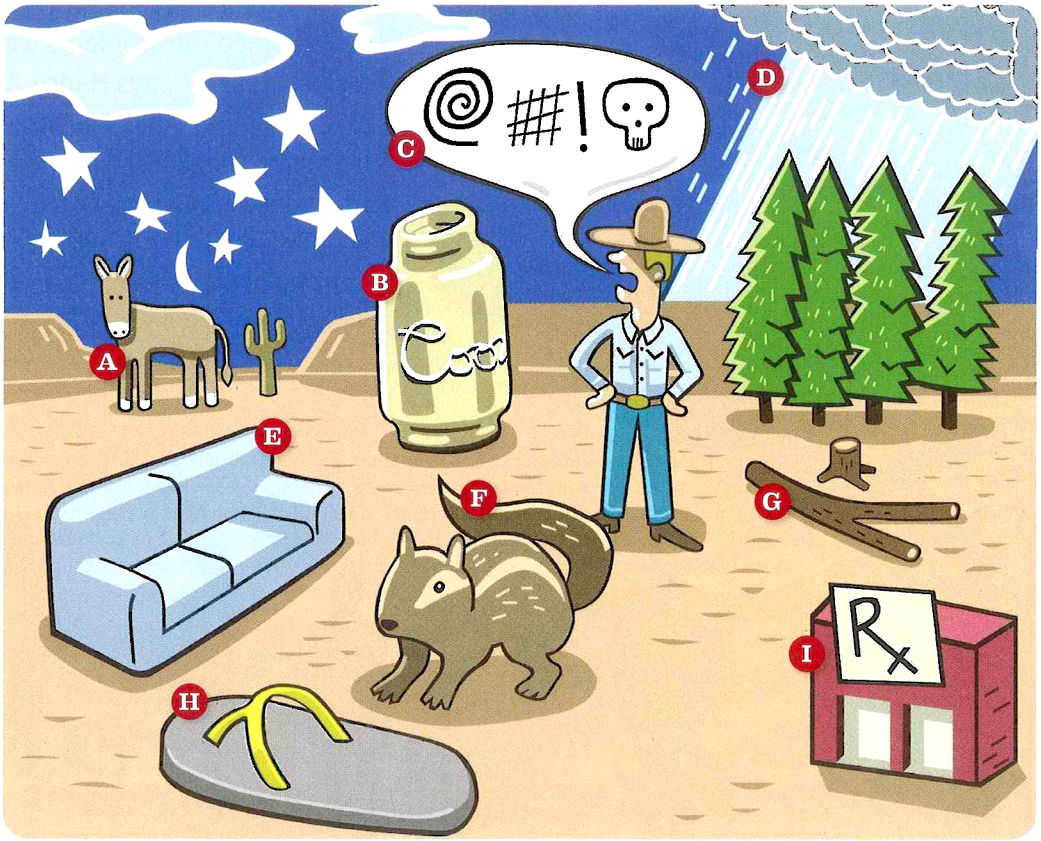
AUGUST 2011

Exsqueeze Me?

Wicked Good Words **author Mim Harrison scoured America to uncover its quirky regionalisms. Here, she shares a few of her vernacular finds and tests how well you know your "grinnies" from your "go-aheads."**

WHAT IN SAM HILL?
Match each letter (right) to a regional term below.

- ___ Air the lungs
- ___ Arizona nightingale
- ___ Colorado Kool-Aid
- ___ Davenport
- ___ Frog strangler
- ___ Go-aheads
- ___ Grinnie
- ___ Long butt
- ___ Spa



ANSWERS How colloquial are you?

A Arizona nightingale = donkey. This animal got its moniker sometime in the 1940s because folks in the Grand Canyon State thought a braying donkey sounded just like a nightingale. **B Colorado Kool-Aid = Coors beer.** The state of Colorado's playful nickname for its most famous homegrown brew was heard more frequently before the popular brand went national in the early 1990s. **C Air the lungs = cussing.** Coined in the Southwest in 1911, this expression means swearing, cowboy-style. **D Frog strangler = heavy rain.** Forget cats and dogs, these Southern storms have been killing frogs since the 1950s. **E Davenport = sofa.** This Midwestern term can be credited to the A. H. Davenport Company, the leading sofa maker in the 1880s. Funny thing is, the company was headquartered in Boston. **F Grinnie = chipmunk.** What western Pennsylvanians call cousins of Alvin. **G Long butt = defective part of a tree.** Loggers in the Pacific Northwest have been lopping these off for more than a century. **H Go-aheads = flip-flops.** Go-aheads earned their name because you can walk out of them and your feet keep on going ahead—that is, if you're in California or Hawaii. **I Spa = drugstore.** Inspired by the bubbly mineral water from springs like those in Spa, Belgium, this Boston term represents a place to get carbonated drinks, which were commonly served from soda fountains in pharmacies as early as the 1920s.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHI BIRMINGHAM