

The computer crashed. We got a flat tire. We were late for rehearsal. The economy crashed. We ran out of ideas. We ran out of cranberries. The pencil broke. We were watching Scrubs. We were planting a tree. We thought it was too easy. We were catching mice. We were solving for x. We were celebrating the election. The washing machine ate our socks. The kitten knocked over a bottle of ink. The weather was gruesome. We rang the bell but no one answered. We were on Facebook. We were writing a novel. We went out to the store. We were playing Scrabble. An alarm went off in the middle of the slow movement. The weather was excellent. We couldn't concentrate because of the noise. We were recovering from a cold. We were roasting marshmallows outside. We were fighting off space aliens. We were sharpening pencils. It was in the wrong key. We lost the key. We were deleting spam. Nous parlions français. We were stuck on a train. The conductor had whooping cough. We had too much homework. We didn't have the right kind of rosin. The coach was allergic to cats. Somebody was singing flat. The lights were on all night. We were feeling very peppy. The bus went by without stopping. It was delivered to the wrong address. We were teaching the kitten to play the violin. We lost the charger. There was a circus in town. Our shoes were too tight. We were doing Yost exercises. Our flight was delayed. We got lost in the woods. It was a very long line. We ran out of sugar. We ran out of time. We couldn't help ourselves. We were driving around in a blizzard. We had forgotten the rules of football. There was a loud crash in the hallway in the middle of the night. We tried, but they were sold out. Nobody wanted to sit in the back seat. We were upholstering chickens. We had writers' block. The grocery store went out of business. There weren't enough chairs. The GPS was wrong. We left several messages. We were invited to a party. We were barking at squirrels. It was a mechanical failure. We were stuck on the Schuylkill. Nobody did the dishes. Somebody forgot to lock the door. It was too cold in the room. The rehearsals overlapped. We got stopped for speeding. We ran out of dog food. It was snowing already in November. Our e-string popped. There were no vegetarian entrees. We overslept. Somebody dropped the cell phone in the bathtub. We forgot to return the library book. Our video went viral. The tunnel was closed. The mailman stepped on the crocuses. It was already getting dark. We had to look it up in the dictionary. We couldn't find the dictionary. The internet was down. We had to bury the rat in the woods. The soufflé collapsed. We had to take a nap. The piano tuner never showed up. The battery was dead. The Brussels sprouts were simply too delicious. We were distracted by a mosquito. There were squirrels in the attic. There was giggling in the background. We couldn't find our gloves. No excuse was good enough. So what the heck, we just went ahead and did it.

Text from Rile Smith Christmas Card, 2008