

# The Lazy Editor



## Celebrity Snot for Sale

Scarlett Johansson's snot-filled tissue. LeBron James's stinky old jersey. Niall Horan's half-eaten food. It's all for sale. (Seriously.) **BY ADEE BRAUN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read this article, which contains many dreadful mistakes. Then follow the prompts in the box on p. 31.

**1** You can buy and sell just about anything on eBay—used paper clips, old tweezers, a dead frog. A lot of this junk sells for only a few bucks. So why did a half-eaten peace of soggy old toast go for tens of thousands of dollars?

**2** In April 2012, One Direction's Niall Horan appeared on a television show in Australia. He was asked to try a piece of toast smeared with Vegemite—a bitter, salty spread that is quiet popular their. Poor Niall didn't like it. In fact, he thought the stuff was so completely stomach-churning that he spit it out into a napkin.

**3** Well, the toast later showed up for sail on eBay. "We do not advise that it is consumed," read the

JUAN NAHARRO GIMENEZ/GETTY IMAGES (NIALL HORAN); ELISABETTA A. VILLA/WIREIMAGE (SCARLETT JOHANSSON); JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES (LEBRON JAMES)

## WE LOVE THIS STORY. TOO BAD WE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO EDIT IT! WILL YOU FIX IT FOR US?



toast listing. “We will not be including the mouthful that Niall spat out—because that’s just gross.” Bidding started at 99 cents but quickly jumped to \$1,000. When the auction ended, an anonymous winner had bought the toast for a whopping \$100,000.

**4** Bizarrely enough, such auctions are not unusual. Justin Timberlakes’ picked-over French toast sold for \$1,025. A signed box containing a lock of Justin Bieber’s hair sold for \$40,668. A fake fingernail that belonged to Lady Gaga was auctioned for almost \$13,000. And get this: A tissue that Scarlett Johansson used to blow her nose sold for \$5,300. Yes, someone paid thousands of dollar’s for ScarJo’s snot. (Ew.)

**5** It might seem strange that people are willing to pay so much for such useless (and frankly, disgusting) item’s. But objects’ touched by the rich and famous have always been highly valued. In ancient Rome, some coins touched by the emperor were prized for their supposed magical healing powers. In medieval Europe, clothing worn by saints was believed to bring blessings and protection. Today, many baseball fans feel that owning a bat once used by Derek Jeter is like owning a piece of history. Other’s find something powerful in the experience of holding a pen that President Barack Obama used to sign a bill into law.

**6** Clearly, the value of such items lies not in what they are, but in what they represent. Think about your own keepsakes. Maybe you saved your ticket stub from the movie premiere of *The Hunger Games*, or your great-grandmothers’ teddy bear. These items mean something to you because of the people and experiences associated with them. So perhaps you can see how for someone who truly loves LeBron James, the unwashed, foul-smelling, sweat-encrusted jersey he once wore just might be worth that persons life saving’s.

**7** Many celebrities auction off their stuff for a good reason. They auction their stuff to raise money for causes they care about. The proceeds from Bieber’s hair, for example, were donated to a charity. The charity was an animal rescue and education foundation. The money from Niall’s toast was donated to a charity too. That charity was for kids with disabilities. Johansson’s snot rag raised money for USA Harvest. USA Harvest provides food for the needy. Still, let’s just hope that next time, ScarJo auctions off something a bit more dignified . . . like her toenail clippings. ●

### FIND IT/FIX IT

**DIRECTIONS:** Can you find the following errors in the article and fix them? Write the answers on your own paper.

**Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3:** Spellcheck won’t catch these four spelling errors! Please correct them.

**Paragraphs 4, 5 & 6:** Oh dear. These paragraphs have some serious problems with possessives and plurals. Will you kindly fix eight mistakes?

**Paragraph 7:** Many of the sentences in this paragraph have the same length and rhythm, which make them a total snore. Please rewrite this paragraph and vary the sentence length and structure.

FOR MORE PRACTICE,  
GO TO SCOPE ONLINE.

GET  
MORE  
ONLINE!