The hanging of stratigraphic cross-sections

A previous page in this series observed that the datum of a stratigraphic cross-section should be "a carefully chosen stratigraphic horizon." This page shows some examples of well-chosen and poorly-chosen horizons. Poorly-chosen horizons involve the tops or bottoms of stratigraphic anomalies and especially the bottoms of erosional features (disastrous Example 3) and the tops of constructional features (equally disastrous Example 6). Well-chosen horizons are laterally continuous and easily recognizable, but otherwise unremarkable, horizons like those used in Examples 1, 4, 5, and 8.