

中学生
英语课外
活动丛书

FUN WITH
ENGLISH

英语笑话集

ENGLISH JOKES

人民教育出版社

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English jokes

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外语室英语组编

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前 言

中学生要想学好英语，为今后进一步深造和获得自学能力打好基础，仅仅依靠英语教材所提供的语言信息是不够的，必须经过大量的语言实践。为此，我们除了配合现行英语教材编辑出版同步的学习材料（初、高中英语练习册；初、高中英语阅读训练；初、高中英语听力训练）外，还编辑出版这套《中学生英语课外活动丛书》。这套丛书包括英语短剧集、英语歌曲集、英语谚语集、英语谜语集、英语游戏集、英语诗歌集、英语笑话集等七种。语言材料均选自英语国家的出版物。内容丰富，篇幅短小精悍，语言地道，并配有插图，生动活泼，趣味性强。学生在说说笑笑或说说唱唱的轻松愉快的气氛中，不仅能熟悉英语国家的文化背景知识和生活习俗，开阔视野，而且能学习语言知识和训练语言技能，起到“寓教学于娱乐”的作用。

这套丛书既可以作为学生的课外活动材料，也可以选择其中的一部分作为教学的辅助材料。

总之，一定要让学生用耳听，开口说，用眼读，动手写。只有通过大量的语言实践活动，培养学生学习英语的兴趣，促使他们用英语进行初步的交际，英语才能学好。

由于编者水平有限，时间匆促，书中难免存在缺点和错误，欢迎读者批评指正。

编写组

1988年12月

编者说明

《英语笑话集》是《中学生英语课外活动丛书》的一种。该书是由1. Animals 2. Family life 3. Food 4. Medical treatment 5. Money 6. Parts of the body 7. School life 8. Sport and travel 9. Differentiation 10. Homonym 11. Polysemy 12. Miscellaneous等几个部分组成。语言材料均选自英语国家的出版物，有的稍加改写而成。内容丰富，篇幅短小精悍，语言地道，并配有插图，生动活泼，趣味性强。学生在说说笑笑的轻松愉快的气氛中，不仅能熟悉英语国家的文化背景知识和生活习俗，而且能学习英语知识和训练语言技能，起到“寓教学于娱乐”的作用。文中出现的生词和语言难点都加了汉语注释。注释是按每条笑话出现的先后顺序编排的，放在正文之后。本书适合中学生及广大英语爱好者阅读。

本书是由司延亭编注 责任编辑是刘锦芳。

由于时间匆促，书中难免出现缺点和错误，欢迎读者批评指正。

编者

1989 年

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ENGLISH JOKES

1. ANIMALS

1. "Why do birds in a nest always agree?"
"Because they don't want to fall out."
2. "Why does an ostrich have such a long neck?"
"Because its head is so far from its body."
3. "Why do birds fly south in the winter?"
"Because it's too far to walk."
4. Two birds were sitting on the branch of a tree not far from a big airport. Suddenly the calm of the summer's afternoon was broken by the roar of a jet plane screaming through the sky. As the thunderous noise died away, one bird turned to the other and said, "I bet you'd go as fast if your tail was on fire!"
5. Teacher: Tom, will you correct the following sentence "the bull and the cow is in the field", please?

Tom: That should be "the cow and the bull is in

the field, miss." Ladies should always go before gentlemen.

6. Art master: Patricia, I told the class to draw a cow eating grass, but you've only drawn a cow.

Patricia: Yes, sir --- the cow's eaten all the grass.

7. "My cat took first prize at the Bird Show."

"Your cat took first prize at the Bird Show? How did he manage that?"

"He ate the prize canary ..."

8. Boss: Come right on in, Dick. He won't hurt you. You know a barking dog never bites.

Dick: Sure, boss, I know that. But I don't know how soon he's going to stop barking.

9. A: How far can a dog chase a rabbit into a wood?

B: I suppose it depends on how big the wood is.

A: Oh, no, it doesn't. A dog can only chase a rabbit halfway into a wood. After that, he's chasing it out!

10. A man called another man who had a dog. The dog barked very loudly at him as he walked up

the path of the house. He felt quite afraid of this huge barking dog, so he said, "My! Your dog does bark loudly! I thought he was going to bite me!"

The other man replied, "Oh, he's all right. You know the old proverb — 'A barking dog never bites'."

"Yes," replied the visitor. "I know the proverb, and you know the proverb, but does the dog know it?"

11. "I like your new dog. Is it clever?"

"I'll say so! When I say to him, 'Are you going for a walk or aren't you?' he either comes or he doesn't!"

12. "My dog's got no nose."

"Poor thing! How does he smell?"

"Terrible!"

13. "My dog can jump ten feet."

"That's nothing — my dog can jump as high as our house."

"I don't believe it!"

"It's true. Mind you, our house can't jump very high."

14. "Would you like to play with our new dog?"

"He looks very fierce. Does he bite?"

"That's what I want to find out."

15. "I've lost my dog."

"Why not put an ad.
in the paper?"

"Don't be daft —
he can't read."



16. "What's your new dog's name?"
"Don't know — he won't tell me."
17. At a party, a conjurer was producing egg after egg from a little boy's ear.
"There!" he said proudly. "I bet your mother can't produce eggs without hens, can she?"
"Oh, yes, she can," said the boy. "She keeps ducks."
18. "In India I used to chase wild elephants on horse-back."
"Fancy that! I never knew elephants could ride horses ..."
19. "Why don't elephants ride bicycles?"
"They haven't got thumbs to ring the bell with."
20. "What does an elephant do when it rains?"
"Gets wet."
21. "Is this river good for fish?"
"It must be. I can't get any of them to leave it!"
22. A man was boasting about the number of fish he had caught in a lake.
"Mind you," he said, "they were biting easily. Why, I had to hide behind a tree to bait my

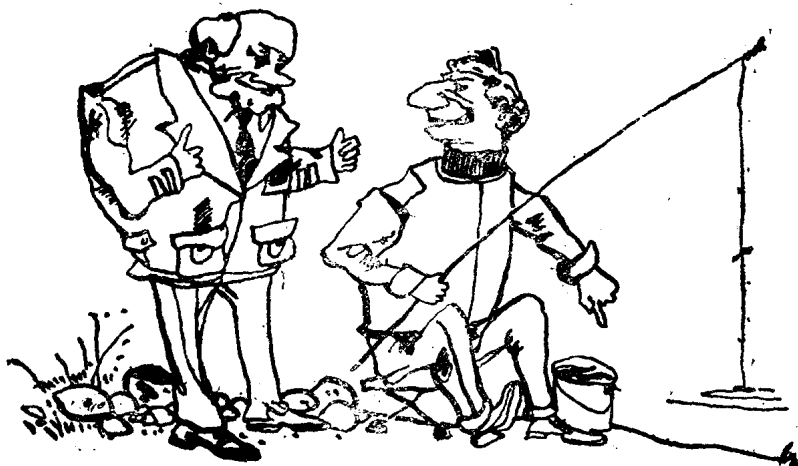
hook!"

23. "How many fish have you caught today?"

"When I get another I'll have one."

24. "You can't fish here!"

"I'm not fishing. I'm giving my worm a bath."



25. A city boy was staying for the first time on a farm. The morning after he arrived, he asked the farmer if there was anything he could do to help, since he knew that there was always a lot of work to do on a farm. "That's very thoughtful of you, my boy," said the farmer. "Yes, would you go and harness up the old cart-horse for

me?"

So off went the lad, full of enthusiasm. But being a city lad he tried to put a harness on the farmer's prize bull! When the farmer eventually arrived, the poor boy exclaimed, "Oh, farmer, I've tried so hard to get the harness on him — but his ears are so stiff!"

26. A farmer bought a new cart-horse on Hire Purchase; after a week he took it back to the dealer and complained.

"He does his work well enough," said the farmer, "but he won't hold his head up and I think there must be something wrong with him."

"Don't worry about him not holding his head up," explained the dealer, "it's just his pride — he will when he's paid for!"

27. "If a horse's head is pointing north, where would its tail be pointing?"

"To the south."

"No — to the ground!"

28. "What did the lion say when it saw two hunters in a jeep?"

"Meals on wheels."

29. "What would happen if pigs could fly?"

"Bacon would go up."

30. "Dad, what would happen if I stole that pony?"

"You'd go to prison, my lad."

"Oh, you wouldn't forget to feed him while I was away, would you?"

31. A farmer asked his Irish shepherd whether he had counted the sheep that morning.

"I did indeed, sir," said the Irishman. "I counted up to nineteen, but one of the creatures ran so fast I couldn't count him at all."

32. A farmer was showing a schoolboy round his farm when they came to a field where the farmer's sheep were grazing.

"How many sheep do you reckon there are?" asked the farmer proudly.

"Seven hundred and sixty-four," replied the boy after a few seconds.

The farmer gaped. "That's exactly right, boy. How did you count them so quickly?"

"Simple," said the genius. "I just counted the legs and divided by four!"

33. "I hear you've just come back from India."

"That's right — I was a guest of a rajah."

"Were you really? Did you go hunting?"

"Oh yes. One day he took me into the jungle to shoot tigers."

"Any luck?"

"Yes — we didn't meet any!"

34. All the animals in the jungle decided to form themselves into football teams and play a knock-out competition. Over a period of several months dozens and dozens of teams played each other, until the great day dawned for the final match to decide the champion animal team. It was a fast and furious match, with thousands of animals from miles and miles around cheering and shouting with excitement.

The score was six-all, and there were just five minutes left for play when the Ant went scorching down the middle. It looked as though he was just about to score when the Elephant on the defending side, squashed the Ant flat as a pancake! The referee — the Camel — blew his whistle and came running over.

"You've killed him!" he said to the Elephant.

"That means a penalty — and I'll send you off."

"But I didn't mean to kill him, ref!" replied the

Elephant.

"I only meant to trip him!"

2. FAMILY LIFE

35. Teddy came thundering down the stairs, much to his father's annoyance.

"Teddy," he called, "how many more times have I got to tell you to come down those stairs quietly! Now, go back upstairs and come down like a civilised human being."

There was a silence, and Teddy reappeared in the front room.

"That's better," said his father. "Now in future will you always come down the stairs like that?"

"Suits me," said Teddy. "I slid down the bannisters."

36. "Stuart, you're taking a long time over that letter to Grandma."

"Well, she can't see very well, Mum, so I have to write slowly."

37. "Are you writing a thank-you letter to Grandpa like I told you?"

"Yes, Mum."

"Your handwriting seems very large."

"Well, Grandpa's deaf, so I'm writing very loud."

38. "Giles, we're having very important guests for lunch today so clean yourself up and make yourself presentable, please."

"Why — they're not going to eat me, are they?"

39. "What do you keep in the wall safe?"

"The wall."

"And suppose you have a fire."

"We'll put that in there too."

40. Mum: Dick, don't be mean. Let your little brother play with your marbles if he wants to.

Dick: Oh, Mum! He wants to keep them.

Mum: I'm sure he doesn't.

Dick: Well, he's swallowed two already!

41. Jimmy: Hey, Timmy, aren't you coming out to play?

Timmy: No, I have to stay in and help my father with my homework.

42. Mother: We should never defer until tomorrow what we can do today, should we?