

A cartoon illustration at the top of the cover shows a purple house with a red door and yellow windows, a palm tree, and a smiling sun with a face.

THE FIRST SIMPLE FAMILY

A cartoon illustration at the bottom shows a brown dog with its mouth open, and a bone lying on the ground.

JOKE BOOK

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**THE
FIRST
SIMPLE
FAMILY
JOKE
BOOK**

Adam Bryan

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Before his first plane trip Grandpa Simple was told chewing gum would keep his ears from popping during the flight.

After the plane landed, Grandma Simple asked, "Did the gum help, dear?"

"Yep, worked fine," replied Grandpa Simple. "Only trouble is I can't get the gum out of my ears."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Bryan is a pseudonym for the author of several books for young readers, published primarily by Avon-Camelot. The father of four sons, Mark, Wyatt, Bryan, and Adam, all of whom have contributed to this book, he lives near Woodstock, New York, where he is at work on a family history and another Simple Family collection.

Why did Willie Simple tiptoe past the medicine cabinet?

Because he didn't want to wake up the sleeping pills.

Why did Susie Simple throw her alarm clock out the window?

She wanted to see time fly.

Why did Mrs. Simple drive her car off a cliff?

She wanted to test her new air brakes.

Why did Uncle Maynard Simple, the great trapeze artist, refuse to fly?

The airline wouldn't put a net under the plane.

Mr. Simple hit a woman with his car and knocked her twenty feet in the air. Why did he sue her?

For leaving the scene of the accident.

Why did Grandpa Simple move out of his house?

Because he heard most accidents happen at home.

Why did Grandpa Simple cut a hole in the rug?
He wanted to see a floor show.

How did Grandma Simple get to the hospital?
By accident.

Why did Great Aunt Irma Simple run over the same man twice?

There wasn't anyone else on the street.

What did Willie Simple say when the teacher asked him why he was standing on one leg?

"I'll fall down if I lift the other leg, too."

Why did Grandpa Simple run a steam roller over his potato field?

He wanted to raise mashed potatoes.

What did Susie Simple say when the teacher said, "Your story about the cat is exactly the same as the one your brother Willie wrote."

"It's the same cat."

Mr. Simple looked up from his newspaper and said, "There's a story here that says there's a man run over on New York City streets every eight minutes."

"That's awful," replied Mrs. Simple. "Someone should tell him to stay on the sidewalk."

Grandpa Simple went to Doctor Sigmund Simple and complained that his left knee hurt.

"That's just old age," said Doctor Simple.

"The other one's just as old," replied Grandpa Simple, "so why doesn't it hurt, too?"

MRS. SIMPLE: Wake up.

MR. SIMPLE: Why? Go back to sleep.

MRS. SIMPLE: I heard a mouse squeak.

MR. SIMPLE: What do you want me to do, oil it?

Willie Simple asked his mother: "Would you spank me for something I didn't do?"

"Certainly not," replied Mrs. Simple. "Why do you ask?"

"I didn't do my homework."

At a family picnic Grandpa Simple said, "When I was twelve, I ran off with the circus."

"Gee," said Susie Simple, "was it fun?"

"I don't know," replied Grandpa Simple. "The police made me bring it back."

WILLIE SIMPLE: Do you have holes in your underwear?

COUSIN CINDY SIMPLE: What a disgusting question! Of course I don't.

WILLIE SIMPLE: How do you get your legs in, then?

"I'm losing my memory," Grandma Simple told Grandpa Simple, "and I'm worried about it."

"Nonsense," replied Grandpa Simple. "Just forget about it."

How many Simples does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One to hold the light bulb and four to turn the ladder.

What did Willie Simple say when Mrs. Simple asked him how he did on his first day of school?

"Not so good. Teacher says I have to go back tomorrow."

UNCLE MAYNARD SIMPLE: Is your water good for drinking?

FARMER JAKE SIMPLE: Sure is. It's well water.

Mr. Simple and Cousin Elmer Simple had been hunting for hours when Mr. Simple complained, "We've been out here all day and haven't shot anything."

"I know," said Cousin Elmer. "Maybe we should bring our guns next time."

Aunt Edna Simple went to the post office to mail a package, and the clerk said, "This is too heavy. You'll have to put more stamps on it."

Aunt Edna scratched her head and said, "But won't that make it even heavier?"

WILLIE SIMPLE: This coffee is terrible.

WAITRESS: Young man, I've been making coffee since before you were born.

WILLIE SIMPLE: Well, I sure wish you hadn't saved it for me.

"I just dreamed you bought me a beautiful new sports car and a new mink coat," said Mrs. Simple.

Mr. Simple groaned and said, "Why don't you go back to sleep and enjoy them?"

Mr. Simple was seriously injured in an automobile accident and was taken to a hospital where he lay unconscious for quite a while. Later the doctor came into the room with Mrs. Simple and said, "I'm afraid your husband is dead."

At just that moment Mr. Simple woke up and said, "No I'm not."

"Shut up!" said Mrs. Simple. "Do you think you know more than the doctor does?"

GRANDPA SIMPLE: I just swallowed a chicken bone.

GRANDMA SIMPLE: Are you choking?

GRANDPA SIMPLE: Of course not. I'm serious.

Mrs. Simple went to the grocery store and complained to the manager that the flour she had bought the day before was too tough.

"Too tough!" replied the astonished grocer.

"That's right," said Mrs. Simple. "I made cookies with it, and no one in my family could chew them."

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What did Susie Simple say when her mother told her it took three sheep to make a wool sweater?

"Wow! I didn't even know they could knit."

When Willie Simple told his mother he had knocked over the ladder by the side of the house, she said, "You'd better go tell your father."

"Oh, he knows," replied Willie. "He was on it."

A pilot who took Grandpa and Grandma Simple for their first ride in an airplane with an open cockpit decided to have a little fun. He told them he wouldn't charge them if neither made a sound when he did a loop-the-loop and a sudden nose dive. They agreed, and the pilot performed the stunts.

As the plane came in for a landing, the pilot yelled back to Grandma and Grandpa Simple: "How'd you like it?"

"Great," replied Grandpa, "but I almost let out a yell when Grandma fell out."

Cousin Elmer Simple got fired from his job as a street sweeper because he couldn't keep his mind in the gutter.

When Mr. and Mrs. Simple went to the theater, the ticket seller asked, "Do you want ten-dollar seats downstairs or five-dollar seats upstairs?"

"Gee," said Mr. Simple, "what's playing upstairs?"

Cousin Elmer Simple was so stupid that he had to take off his mittens to count up to ten.