



Welcome to the Answer English April English Class.

This month's class includes:

Fun Jokes to Match
Story Time Joke: Grammar Obsession
Topic of the Month: Renting a Car
Idiom of the Month: A House of Cards
Phrasal verb: Get In/On
News Article (Intermediate level): Dashing Damon
News Article (Advanced level): Flaky Employees
Film Review: Once

Fun Jokes to Match

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A - H).

1. What do you get from a pampered cow?
2. What kind of keys do kids like to carry?
3. Where do Aliens keep their sandwiches?
4. Jim: Do you have a good memory of faces? John: Yes, why?
5. Mary: I'm on a seafood diet. Paul: What's a seafood diet?
6. Teacher: If I had seven oranges in one hand and 8 in the other, what would I have?
7. What's the longest piece of furniture in the school?
8. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other:

A: Jim: Because I've just broken your shaving mirror.

B: Does this taste funny to you?

C: Pupil: Big hands.

D: Spoiled milk.

E: The multiplication table.

F: Coo-kies.

G: Mary: When I "see food", I eat it!

H: In a "launch" box.

To see if you matched the Fun Jokes correctly check the Answers at the End of the class.

Story Time Joke: Grammar obsession

The headmistress of a secondary school is walking along the corridor. All of a sudden, she sees a teacher coming out of the bathroom with a thick marker pen in his hand. Curious, the headmistress goes in to have a look. To her horror, the walls are covered in graffiti.

The next day, the headmistress calls the teacher into her office. "Mr Jones. You have been teaching English with us for twenty years now," the headmistress explains. "We've been very pleased with your work here, however, the other day I saw you coming out of the toilets with a marker pen in your hand. You know that writing

graffiti on school property is a serious offence.”

“Oh, no, I didn’t write those things,” the teacher said. “I was just correcting the grammar.”

Topic of the Month: Renting a car

When you study abroad you may like to venture outside of the city or town where you are studying. To do so renting a car is one of the best ways to discover new places in the UK. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- I’d like to rent a car, please.
- How much is it per hour? How much is it per day? How much is it per kilometre?
- How much is the insurance?
- Do you need to see my driver’s licence?
- Can I leave the car in another city?
- Is it petrol or diesel? Does it take petrol or diesel?
- There appears to be a dent in the bodywork.
- There’s a scratch at the back.
- Where is the car?
- What’s the car registration number?
- Where do I have to leave it when I’ve finished?
- What do I do with the keys?
- Is it manual (“stickshift” US) or automatic?
- Sorry, but I put diesel in the petrol tank.
- I’m sorry but I crashed the car.
- I’m sorry but I’ve written the car off. I’ve totalled the car (US)
- The car is a write off. Can you give me another one?

What you hear

- It comes with a full tank of petrol.
- Please return it with a full tank.
- The keys are here.
- The car is parked in the car park, in bay 24, parking space B23.
- Just phone this number if you have any difficulties.
- The registration number is PY2 4TZ.
- Just fill out this form, please
- May I see your driving licence, please?
- I’ll just take down your details.
- It’s got unlimited mileage.
- I need to swipe your credit card.
- You will be liable for the excess, which is 200 pounds.

Idiom:



A house of cards

An organisation or plan that is very weak and that can easily be destroyed.

"The organisation appeared to be solid, but it turned out to be a house of cards."

Phrasal verb:



News Article (Intermediate level): Dashing Damon

The world's "sexiest" man is chosen.

Readers of People magazine have voted for the sexiest man on the planet. And the winner is... Matt Damon. The 37-year-old Bourne Identity star said he was pleased, but also very embarrassed by the award. He said, "You have made an old, suburban dad very happy."

The magazine says that the fact that Damon was embarrassed shows that he deserved it. Damon is one of the most successful actors in Hollywood. He has been

earning millions of dollars for each film he appears in. Previous winners of the prize include Brad Pitt and George Clooney. The first winner of the award, in 1985, was the award-winning actor Mel Gibson.

News Article (Advanced level): Flaky Employees

US business to start new war

A new term has been created by business experts for a special type of worker: the flaky employee. So, what is a "flaky employee"? Basically, it's the type of person who is very creative and full of useful ideas, but who never has the drive to see a project through to completion. A typical flaky employee, they say, is someone who as a student excelled in art, music, drama and creative writing, although their inability to finish a project by its due-date kept them at a steady "C" average.

Business gurus say that this problem needs to be countered; and the best way to do this is by creating an environment in which an employee's creativity and initial enthusiasm is further encouraged. "Small bonuses, more responsibility and a more individualistic approach to employee-boss relationships is crucial," an industry expert explained. "And the key lies with bosses. It is their job to draw people away from updating their MySpace profile every day." Experts say that this could help eradicate the growing problem of un-productivity, which is costing US businesses millions of dollars each year.

Film Review: Once

A surprise winner at this year's Academy Awards was the low-budget Irish film *Once*. Set in Dublin, the film was made for approximately €100,000 and starred Glen Hansard of the Irish band *The Frames* with Czech musician Markéta Irglová. The film won the Oscar for Best Original Song. They performed the song, "Falling Slowly", at the ceremony to wide adulation. So, what's the film all about?

The Plot

The movie starts with the unnamed "Guy" (played by Glen Hansard) busking on Dublin's Grafton Street, doing cover versions. A junkie tries to steal Guy's earnings but apologises when Guy catches him. Later, at night, while he is performing songs he wrote by himself, a friendly Czech girl (Irglová), who is referred to as "Girl", starts talking to him. When Guy mentions that his real job is repairing vacuum cleaners, Girl mentions that her Hoover is broken. Although Guy is unfriendly at first (he has recently split up from his girlfriend), when Girl arrives the next day (with the Hoover), they go to a music shop where Girl plays the piano and Guy realises that she is a gifted musician. They soon become friends.

As the film unfolds, we see how the pair live in run-down parts of Dublin; Guy with his grumpy (but ultimately supportive) father, Girl with her mother and daughter. Guy is dreaming of a recording deal and the pair decide to record with some fans of the band Thin Lizzy. They spend a weekend at a recording studio making a CD of Guy's own songs and at the same time talk about their hopes and dreams regarding their love lives: Guy hopes to win back his ex-girlfriend, who lives in London; Girl contemplates giving her marriage another try with her estranged husband who is back in the Czech Republic. Will they win their respective loves back? You'll have to see the film to find out.

A Modern-day Musical... or Romance?

Once is both a musical and a love story with a difference. Unlike ordinary musicals, everyone on screen doesn't burst into song spontaneously. However, the musicians in the film perform each number while the rest of the actors blend into the backdrop of grotty, working-class Dublin. And this is why director John Carney (former bass guitarist with The Frames) described it as a "modern-day musical". Cillian Murphy, who starred in *28 Days Later* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* was supposed to play Guy but Glen Hansard became the final choice. Murphy was a talented musician before he became an actor but, as it turned out, Hansard became the star of the show, thereby turning it round from actor/musician to musician/actor. Glen's only other major acting performance was in the film *The Commitments* where he played, yes, you guessed it, a guitarist.

The plot of the film is different because it isn't an ordinary love story. The two characters want to get back with their old flames, not each other and their only intimate connection is music. The plot of the film always plays second fiddle to the music. Glen and Marketa performed the song "Falling Slowly" at the Academy Awards ceremony on 24th February this year, then won the award for Best Original Song. Marketa said in her acceptance speech that it was proof that struggling musicians everywhere could reach the top. Well, these two did at least. Well done, guys and girls, or should I say, Guy and Girl.

Answers to Jokes: 1D 2F 3H 4A 5G 6C 7E 8B