

Welcome to the *Answer English* February 2007 English Class.

**In this edition you will find:**

**Waiter Jokes to Match**

**Story Time Joke: Liar!**

**Situation: Visiting a Museum**

**Dialogue: On the phone to the Museum**

**Idiom of the Month**

**Phrasal Verb of the Month**

**News Article (Intermediate level): Humpback Brains**

**News Article (Advanced level): British Sorrow**

**Film: Apocalypto**

### **Waiter Jokes to Match**

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

1. Waiter, there's a fly in my soup.
2. Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?
3. Waiter, my plate is wet.
4. Waiter, what is this?
5. Waiter, there's a button in my soup.
6. Waiter, this lobster has only got one claw.
7. Waiter, there is soup on the menu.

8. Waiter, this glass is dirty.

A: I don't know. I'd better call the manager – I can't tell one insect from another.

B: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realise you wanted a clean one.

C: He must have been in a fight, sir. I'll bring you the winner.

D: Oh, really. I was sure that I'd cleaned it properly.

E: Swimming, sir.

F: Don't worry, sir, the spider in the bread will get it.

G: It's not wet, sir. That's the soup.

H: Thank you, sir. I was wondering what had happened to it.

To see if you matched the Fun Jokes correctly check the [Answers](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

### **Story Time Joke: Liar!**

Two students are arguing when the teacher enters the room. “What's going on here? What are you arguing about?” the teacher asks.

One girl answers, “We found a ten-dollar note and decided to give it to the biggest liar.”

“Lying! Children shouldn't lie. You should be ashamed of yourselves,” says the teacher, furious.

“When I was your age, I never lied.”

At which point the girls give the ten-dollar note to the teacher.

[Back to the Top](#)

### **Situation: Visiting a Museum**

*Learn some useful vocabulary to use in a Museum.*

An exhibit – a painting or work of art that is shown to the public.

A gallery – a place in a museum with a permanent exhibition of works of art in it.

A security guard – a person who is in charge of security in a museum.

The museum shop – the place where you can buy gifts in a museum.

The museum – a building that has paintings, exhibitions, artefacts, etc.

A painting – an image created with coloured paints.

A sculpture – a work of art created with stone.

An entrance fee – the money you pay to enter a museum.

A X-ray scanner – a machine that checks the contents of bags.

An exhibition – a public event at which pictures or works of art are shown to the public.

An artefact – an object of cultural or archaeological interest.

An interactive exhibit – an exhibit that permits communication between the user and the exhibit.

A research centre – a place where investigation takes place.

A guided tour – a trip around the museum with a guide (a person who explains things).

A tour guide – a person who takes people around a museum explaining things.

A visitor – a person who visits a museum.

A curator – someone who is in charge of the objects in a museum.

A workshop – a discussion on a topic, or a practical demonstration of how something works.

[Back to the Top](#)

### **Dialogue: On the phone to the Museum**

Museum: The Brackenhall Art Museum. How may I help you?

Gary: Hi, I was wondering if your Picasso exhibition was still on?

Museum: Yes, it's running until the end of the month.

Gary: Oh, great. How much is the entrance fee?

Museum: It's two pounds, and there's a 20% reduction for students and pensioners.

Gary: OK. And what are the opening hours?

Museum: We're open from 9 in the morning till 6 in the evening.

Gary: Do you cater for groups?

Museum: Yes, but you'll have to book in advance.

Gary: And do you do guided tours?

Museum: Yes, but once again, you'll have to book in advance.

Gary: OK, thank you very much.

Museum: Not at all.

[Back to the Top](#)

**Idiom of the Month**



### As slippery as an eel

Someone who is "as **slippery** as an **eel**" is dishonest and cannot be trusted.

"I wouldn't go into business with him. He's as slippery as an eel."

[Back to the Top](#)

**Phrasal Verb of the Month**



[Back to the Top](#)

### **News Article (Intermediate level): Humpback Brains**

*Humpback whales have similar brain cells to humans.*

Humpback whales have brains that are similar to humans, according to researchers. Scientists found that humpbacks have a type of brain cell called spindle neurons. These cells are only found in humans, great apes and dolphins. Scientists think that spindle neurons used for learning, remembering and recognising. These cells might explain some of the humpback whale's behaviour. For example, the humpback has advanced communication skills. They also form alliances and cooperate with one another. Humans, apes and whales might have evolved together. Whales are part of the cetacean group of marine mammals. This group also includes dolphins.

## **News Article (Advanced level): British Sorrow**

*Tony Blair expresses sorrow for slave trade.*

Tony Blair has said Britain feels “deep sorrow” for the slave trade. The British Prime Minister recently made a speech to mark the upcoming 200th anniversary of the slave trade's abolition. He said, “I believe the bicentenary offers us a chance not just to say how profoundly shameful the slave trade was... how we condemn its existence utterly and praise those who fought for its abolition... but also to express our deep sorrow that it ever could have happened.”

He also acknowledged that Britain's rise to global pre-eminence was partially dependent on colonial slave labor. But his statement stopped short of a full apology. And some people say it did not go far enough. Kofi Mawali Klu of rights group Rendezvous of Victory said, “Blair's article is taking a backward step from Britain's official position in 1807 when it abolished the trade and expressed regret for what had happened. This has heightened feelings among people in the African community. We want an apology of substance that addresses the demands for African reparations.” He said Blair should back up his words with measures such as tackling the alienation of black youth in Britain's education system.

## **Film: Apocalypto**

*Apocalypto*, like other Mel Gibson movies such as *Braveheart*, *The Passion of Christ*, and even *Mad Max 2*, is another epic with a strong moral message. Here's the story: a loving husband, father and skilled hunter called "Jaguar Paw" leads a happy life in his small jungle village, but there is trouble threatening paradise. Early one morning, a band of warriors attack the village. They take many prisoners and force the captives to march through the jungle. They go through lands ravaged by plague, drought, deforestation and pollution, and finally arrive at a Mayan capital, a place of consumption and corruption.

### **Escape**

Once there, the women are sold into slavery, while the men are sent to the pyramid to be sacrificed to the gods. But Jaguar Paw escapes. He is injured and is hunted constantly. Against impossible odds, he must fight back through the jungle to his home to save his wife and children, and to seek a new beginning for a civilisation that has lost its way.

Jaguar Paw is like a prophet who must endure constant punishment and suffering.

He also bears witness to the end of civilization. He sees a whole society destroyed because of warfare, disease, environmental destruction and moral collapse. The Mayan civilisation in the movie is like a mirror to our own. Yet when the Christian missionaries arrive at the end of the film, this is represented as another problem rather than a solution to the moral crisis of the Mayan culture. This gives the film much more appeal to the non-religious moviegoer.

### **Controversy**

The film does have some potential controversies. Gibson is the first big-budget filmmaker to take Mayan civilization as a serious subject. The movie is filmed entirely in Yucatan Mayan, and has many unknown local actors instead of big stars. Many have criticised Gibson for not showing much of the

culture's extraordinary achievements in mathematics, astronomy and art. And experts have disputed many details in the Mayan practices and architecture shown in the movie.

However, the jungle sequences, shot in Mexico's last remaining rainforest, are exquisitely beautiful. And an angry jaguar, a dangerous waterfall and lethal quicksand provide lots of Tarzan-style action. Without Gibson's maverick spirit, *Apocalypto* would probably never have been made at all. Thirty minutes or so shorter, and this might have been a masterpiece. It's not perfect, but *Apocalypto* is still a great action movie.

[Back to the Top](#)

**Answers:**

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

Thank you. We hope you enjoyed this month's English Class with *Answer English*.