

Welcome to the *Answer English* April English Class.

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Fun Jokes

Here are some fun jokes. See if you can match each question (1 to 6) with each answer (A-F).

1. What do you call a fish with no eyes?
2. Waiter, this food tastes funny!
3. How can you swim 100 metres in two seconds?
4. What do motorcycle policemen have in their sandwiches?
5. Why did the banker change jobs?
6. Why do French people eat snails?

Answers

- A: Traffic “jam”.
- B: Jump over a waterfall.
- C: Then why aren’t you laughing?
- D: A “fsh”.
- E: Because she lost interest.
- F: Because they don’t like fast food.

To check you matched the Fun Jokes correctly [click here](#).

Situation – The Pub

Visiting a pub is an important part of any visit to Britain; but there are certain things that you need to be aware of before you go through the bar door. Read on and pick up some useful expressions.

The Local

If you ever want to observe native Britons, the best place to go to is the pub. Pubs are a central part of British culture, and almost every Briton has his or her local (favourite pub). The local becomes a place where Britons can go to talk to one another, to enjoy their pint, to read the newspapers, or to sit contemplating life. Britons like to feel at home in their local, as if they were in their own living room. In fact, many pubs are actually replicas of an Englishman's living room, with their nylon **carpets**, **tacky furnishings** and **flowery wallpaper**.

The Atmosphere

In most villages and small towns the pub atmosphere is very relaxed and **laid back**. There is no noise, no stress, and no uncivilized behaviour. However, in the cities things are very different. Pubs are full of the noise of drunken laughter, the thick smoke of cheap tobacco, and the heavy smell of beer.

Closing Time

Thankfully, pub closing times have changed. In the past, pubs closed early – at around 11pm, and at 10.30pm on Sundays. However, these days, pubs can stay open much later, so you can enjoy your drink in peace.

GLOSSARY:

a carpet	<i>n</i>	the thick material which is put over the floor
tacky	<i>adj</i>	cheap and badly made
furnishings	<i>n</i>	the furnishings are the furniture, carpets and decorations in a house
flowery	<i>adj</i>	decorated with pictures of flowers
wallpaper	<i>n</i>	paper that covers the walls
laid back	<i>adj</i>	very relaxed

Real life Vocabulary – At the Bar

Some useful language to help you order your drinks at the bar. The correct English phrase is in **bold**, and the “translation” is underneath and in *italics*.

I'll get this round.

It is my turn to buy the drinks for everyone.

These are on me.

I'll pay for the drinks.

What's the damage?

How much do the drinks cost?

I'll get it.

I will pay for it.

Cheers mate.

Thank you.

Cheers!

To your health!

Half a lager, please.

I would like a small glass of cold beer.

A pint of bitter, please.

I would like a large glass of warm beer.

I'll have a pint of Guinness, please.

I would like a large glass of black beer.

A whisky, please.

I would like a very small glass of whisky.

A double whisky, please.

I would like a small glass of whisky.

A vodka on the rocks, please.

I would like some vodka with ice.

A straight whisky, please.

I would like a whisky without ice.

A box of matches, please.

I would like some little sticks to make fire.

A packet of crisps/peanuts, please.

I am very hungry! Please give me some snacks.

Have one yourself.

I would like to invite you to a drink.

The drinks are on the house.

The pub is paying for your drink.

A lager shandy, please.

I would like a pint of lager with lemonade.

A bitter shandy, please.

I would like a pint of bitter with lemonade.

A pint of Heineken, please.

In Britain it is normal to specify the brand of beer that you would like.

PUB FOOD VOCABULARY

Learn about some typical things to eat in the pub.

Baked potatoes - potatoes that are cooked in the **oven** for about one hour. They are often served with a **filling** such as cheese, butter, **tuna** and **sweetcorn** or **baked beans**.

Pork pie - meat in pastry.

A sausage roll - sausage meat in pastry.

Pasties - vegetables and meat in pastry.

Ploughman's lunches - a lunch dish that consists of a piece of cheese and a mini-salad, with lettuce, tomato, cucumber, pickled onions, and **Branston pickle**. Served with a bread roll and butter.

Pork scratchings - fried pieces of pork fat.

Scotch egg - a boiled egg covered in sausage meat and **breadcrumbs**. It was invented by a Welshman, who later **blamed it on** the Scottish.

Pickled egg - an egg that has been conserved in vinegar.

Pickled onion - an onion that has been conserved in vinegar.

Lasagne - an Italian dish of layers of pasta and meat in a tomato sauce.

Chicken curry - an Indian dish of chicken in a curry sauce.

Shepherd's pie - a mixture of minced beef, carrots and onions with mashed potato on top.

Lancashire hotpot - this has meat and vegetables cooked in gravy, with sliced potatoes on top.

an oven	<i>n</i>	an electrical appliance. You put food in it in order to cook the food
a filling	<i>n</i>	food that we put inside pastry or a vegetable. The filling can be a cheese sauce, meat, etc
tuna	<i>n</i>	a type of fish. Tuna is often sold in tins
sweetcorn	<i>n</i>	a type of food. It is small, round and yellow
baked beans	<i>n</i>	white beans cooked in a tomato sauce. In Britain they are sold in tins
Branston pickle	<i>n</i>	a type of British sauce that is typically eaten with cheese. It is made with pieces of vegetable, spices and vinegar
breadcrumbs	<i>n</i>	very small pieces of bread. It is typical to cook meat covered in breadcrumbs

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Idiom of the Month

Wolf whistle

A high-pitched noise people make through their mouth when they see an attractive person.

“Every time I walk out of the house with this mini-skirt, I get a few wolf whistles from the builders.”



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Phrasal Verb of the Month

Pull over (a car)

If the police “pull over” a car, they order the driver to stop driving the car.



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News Article (Advanced level): George Arrested

George Michael charged with drugs possession.

George Michael has been arrested – again. George's most recent **brush with the law** came after police found him **drugged up** and **slumped over** the **steering wheel** of his car. He was charged with possession of **class C drugs**. On **searching** the car **cops** also found **a stash of weird** sex toys and pornography.

The star said, “It's my own stupid fault, as usual. I was in possession of class C drugs, which is an offence. I have no **complaints** about the police.”

It's been **a long way down** for George. **Back in the 1980s** he was one of the greatest stars and the biggest sex symbols. George was just 18 when he first **rocketed to fame** as part of the **duo** Wham! But

twenty years on, critics say the star's **on the verge of** becoming a **has-been**.

Columnist for British newspaper The Daily Mirror and former friend Tony Parsons said, "I hope he **finds his way** again. I **truly** do. I would hate to see him become what he is in danger of becoming - a **washed-up** has-been who is a bit of a **sad joke**."

George was first arrested back in 1998, after **exposing himself** to an undercover police officer.

a brush with the law	<i>exp</i>	if you have "a brush with the law" you do something illegal
drugged up	<i>exp</i>	someone who is "drugged up" has taken lots of drugs
to be slumped over (something)	<i>exp</i>	to be lying over something whilst asleep or unconscious
a steering wheel	<i>n</i>	the round object in a car that you use to change the direction of the car
class C drug	<i>exp</i>	drugs that are considered the "least dangerous," such as cannabis/marijuana, etc
to search	<i>vb</i>	to look for something
a cop	<i>exp</i>	a police officer
a stash (of something)	<i>n</i>	a secret collection of something
weird	<i>adj</i>	strange
a complaint	<i>n</i>	if you have a "complaint" about something, you have something bad to say about it
a long way down	<i>exp</i>	if you have come "a long way down", it means your life is much worse than it used to be
back in the 1980s	<i>exp</i>	in the 1980s
to rocket to fame	<i>exp</i>	to become famous quickly
duo	<i>n</i>	two people who work together on something
on the verge of (something)	<i>exp</i>	about to do/be something
a has-been	<i>n</i>	a person who used to be famous but isn't any more
to find your way	<i>exp</i>	to find the right direction for you in life
truly	<i>adv</i>	really
washed-up	<i>adj</i>	old and tired
a sad joke	<i>exp</i>	a sad situation
to expose (oneself)	<i>exp</i>	to reveal one's private parts to someone else

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News Article (Intermediate level): Glitter Arrest

Pop star arrested for sex abuse.

Former pop star Gary Glitter **has been jailed**. The British star was found guilty of **molesting** two children in a South Vietnamese village. He was sentenced to three years by a Vietnamese court. When he completes his sentence he will **be deported** to Britain.

Glitter maintains he did not do anything wrong. When the verdict was announced he shouted “Innocent!”. He also said, “The case against me is **groundless**.”

But critics say the sentence is too **lenient**. They say Glitter was arrested months ago and, if he serves a third of his **term**, he could be back in the UK before next Christmas. However, when he gets back he will **face more charges**. More than 2,000 child porn photos were found on his computer in Vietnam.

to be jailed	<i>exp</i>	to be sent to prison
to molest	<i>vb</i>	to touch someone in a sexual way when they don't want to be touched
to be deported to	<i>vb</i>	to be told to leave a country and forced to another country
groundless	<i>adj</i>	without evidence
lenient	<i>adj</i>	easy/light/not strict
a term	<i>n</i>	a prison sentence
to face more charges	<i>exp</i>	to have to respond to more accusations

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Film Review – Proof

There's a new film starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins. It's all about Catherine, the daughter of a brilliant but **mentally-disturbed** mathematician (played by Anthony Hopkins). Catherine (played by Gwyneth Paltrow) dedicates her life to **taking care of** her father until he dies. Shortly afterwards, her secluded life is invaded by one of her father's former students, who wants to **go through** some old notebooks of his. Catherine also has to **come to terms with** the fact that she may have inherited her father's insanity. Then, just to make things worse, Catherine's **estranged sister turns up**. The film is directed by John Madden (*Captain Corelli's Mandolin* , and *Shakespeare in Love*). Let's find out more about Gwyneth Paltrow.

Gwyneth Paltrow

Gwyneth was born on 28 th September 1973 in Los Angeles, California. She went to the University of California in Santa Barbara to study Art History, but soon **dropped out**.

Her father encouraged her to go back to school, but Gwyneth decided to **pursue a career in acting**. Her film debut was in the 1991 film *Shout* with John Travolta. Later, in a chance meeting with Steven Spielberg, she was **cast in the role as Wendy** in the **box office hit** *Hook* (1991).

Gwyneth's **big break** came in 1995 when she was cast in the film *Seven*. She starred opposite Brad Pitt, and the pair started a **highly publicized relationship**. Eventually, they broke up, saying that neither felt they could **pursue their careers**, and at the same time maintain a happy marriage.

Soon afterwards, Gwyneth accepted **roles** in *Moonlight & Valentino* and *The Pall Bearer*, along with an **astounding performance** in *Emma*. Her most famous role **to date** is that of Viola in *Shakespeare in Love*. Her performance earned her the Oscar for Best Actress.

Gwyneth Trivia

Gwyneth is a vegetarian and a good friend of both Madonna and Christina Applegate.

She once made actress Sharon Stone angry after **poking fun at** Stone and husband Phil Bronstein in a Saturday Night Live” **skit**.

She once went out with Ben Affleck.

On 5th December 2003, she married Chris Martin, lead singer of the rock group Coldplay. Gwyneth gave birth to their first child, Apple Blythe Alison Martin, on 14th May 2004. She explained the choice of name on “The Oprah Winfrey Show”, saying, “It sounded so sweet and **it conjured such a lovely picture for me**, you know, apples are so sweet and they're **wholesome** and it's biblical – and I just thought it sounded so lovely and...clean! And I just thought, 'Perfect!'”.

In an interview with The Guardian newspaper on 27th January2006, Paltrow admitted that she divided her films into two categories: those she did for love, and those “**shite**” films she did for money. She put *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Proof* and *Sylvia* into the first category; and *View From the Top* and *Shallow Hal* into the other.

mentally-disturbed

adj

with mental/psychiatric problems

to take care of someone	<i>exp</i>	to help someone who is sick, and to stop them suffering
to go through something	<i>exp</i>	to examine; to investigate
to come to terms with something	<i>exp</i>	to accept something (often something negative)
an estranged sister	<i>exp</i>	a sister who is no longer part of the family, or who no longer communicates with the family
to turn up	<i>phr vb</i>	to arrive
to drop out	<i>phr vb</i>	to leave school before the end of the course
to pursue an acting career	<i>exp</i>	to work as an actor/actress in film/theatre, etc
to cast someone in the role as Wendy	<i>exp</i>	to give someone the part of Wendy in a film
a box office hit	<i>n</i>	a film that is very successful
a big break	<i>n</i>	an opportunity to become famous
a highly publicized relationship	<i>exp</i>	information about a relationship that appears in many newspapers/articles, etc
to pursue a career a role	<i>exp</i>	to continue with their jobs
a role	<i>n</i>	a part in a film
astounding	<i>adj</i>	surprising
a performance	<i>n</i>	singing, dancing or acting in front of an audience or in a film
to date	<i>exp</i>	until now
to poke fun at someone	<i>exp</i>	to laugh at someone; to make jokes about someone
a skit	<i>n</i>	a short piece of theatre in which the actor makes jokes about someone
it conjured such a lovely picture for me	<i>exp</i>	it created such a lovely picture for me in my head
wholesome	<i>adj</i>	healthy
shite	<i>adj</i>	very bad

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Answers to Fun Jokes:

1D 2C 3B 4A 5E 6F

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