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Fun Jokes to Match

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

1. Where is it that "yesterday" comes after "today"?
2. What never gets any wetter no matter how hard it rains?
3. What do people make that nobody can ever see?
4. What do ghosts like about tall buildings?
5. Why do statues and paintings of George Washington always show him standing?
6. What has a neck, but no head?
7. What did the guitar say to the rock star?
8. What kind of can never needs a can opener?

- A: They have lots of "scare" cases.
- B: Stop picking on me.
- C: Because he never "lies".
- D: A pelican.
- E: The sea.
- F: A bottle.
- G: In a dictionary.
- H: Noise.

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

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Story Time Joke: Seeing the Light

Two factory workers, Jim and Sally, are talking. Jim says, "I can convince the boss to give me a day off."
And Sally replies, "How are you going to do that?"
"It's easy," Jim says. "Just watch and learn." So, Jim hangs upside-down from the ceiling and calls the boss. "What on earth are you doing?" says the boss as she comes in.
And Jim replies, "I'm a light bulb."
Then the boss says, "Jim, you've been working too much. Go home now, and get some rest."
At that, Jim jumps down from the ceiling and prepares to go home.
At that point, Sally starts leaving too, following Jim out of the room.
"And where do you think you're going, young woman?" the boss asks.
And Sally says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

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Vocabulary: Travelling on Coaches and Buses

Learn some useful vocabulary and expressions to use on the bus.

What you say:

- Which is the bus for London?
- Where is the bus stop?
- What time is the next bus to Birmingham?
- What's the best way to get to Halifax by bus?
- What time does the last bus for Liverpool leave?
- Where can I get the number 34 bus?
- Where do I get off for the Science museum?
- How long does it take?
- Where do I have to get off?
- How long do I have to wait?
- Do you know when the next bus is coming?
- Have we passed Oxford Street?
- Do you have a bus timetable?
- Which bus do I need?
- Do I have to change buses?
- Where do I have to get off?
- Where does the bus leave from?
- Can you tell me where to get off?
- Do I have to get off here?
- Could you tell me when we get to Hyde Park, please?

What you hear:

- You must have the exact change.
- You have to press the button to stop the bus.
- This ticket hasn't been stamped.
- You're on the wrong bus. You need to take the number 3.
- This seat is for the elderly only.
- Would you like a single or a return?
- It's the third stop after this one.
- You aren't allowed to bring bikes on the bus.
- Where are you getting off?

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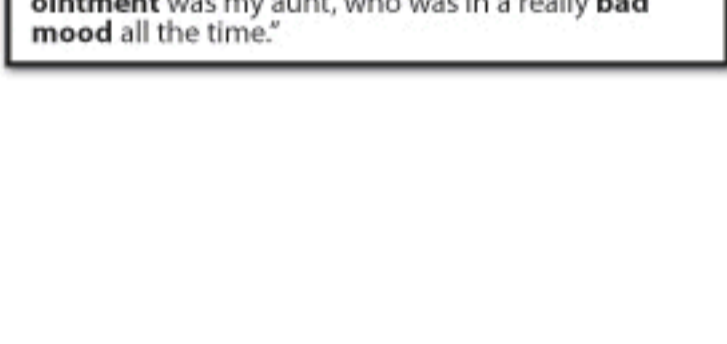
Dialogue: Sam takes the bus

Read this dialogue with a friend. In this conversation, Sam has just got on the bus.

Sam: Is this the right bus for Trafalgar Square?
Bus driver: Yes.
Sam: A single, please. (Sam gives the driver a ten-pound note.)
Bus driver: You need to give the exact change.
Sam: Oh, sorry. Here you are. (Sam hands over the right change.)
Bus driver: Don't forget your ticket.
Sam: Does this bus stop at Oxford Street?
Bus driver: No, you need the 34 for that.
Sam: Where can I get the 34?
Bus driver: It's the bus stop over the street (She points at the bus stop.)
Sam: Do I have to change buses?
Bus driver: No, it's direct. But this one's going to Trafalgar Square, and you can walk to Oxford Street from there. It isn't far.
Sam: Oh, OK. I'll stay on this one then. Could you tell me where to get off, please?
Bus driver: Yes, all right.
Sam: OK. Thanks.

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Idiom of the Month



A fly in the ointment
Someone or something that ruins a situation which could have been nice or successful.
"We had a great Christmas. The only fly in the ointment was my aunt, who was in a really bad mood all the time."

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Phrasal Verb of the Month



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News Article (Intermediate level): Quick Decisions

Quick decisions are sometimes the right decisions.

A recent study has found that quick decisions are sometimes the best. The study was carried out by University College London (UCL). It found that making quick, subconscious decisions is sometimes better. Study participants looked at a computer screen. The screen had more than 650 identical symbols. One was rotated. Participants were asked where the rotated image was. When they had a fraction of a second to look at the screen, their answers were 90 percent correct. But when they had longer, they were only 70 percent correct. Psychologist Kim Stephenson said, "Your subconscious mind is more useful for specific things, where you don't have time and need to react quickly. Your body is designed to do some things very quickly, so using instincts would be better there."

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News Article (Advanced level): Nasty Sounds

The world's worst sounds are analysed.

Which sound do you hate the most? A year-long study has identified the worst sounds in the world. This included fingers being dragged down a blackboard, a dentist's drill, and crying babies. The online study attracted 1.1m votes from around the world. The winner was the sound of someone vomiting. Other sounds included microphone feedback, the noise made by trains on a track, a cat howling and mobile phone ringtones. Unexpectedly, snoring came in very low at number 26 in the list.

The study was set up by Trevor Cox, a professor of acoustic engineering at Salford University. He uploaded 34 sounds at the website www.sound101.org. "From a scientific perspective, we really don't understand why we can learn that so horrible, but our reactions are part of what makes us human. If, as engineers, we some sounds are so horrible, people then, in some cases, we may be able to engineer them out of existence or at least reduce their impact," he said.

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Film: The Last King of Scotland

Have you heard of Idi Amin? He was a dictator who ruled in Uganda during the 1970s. American actor Forest Whitaker plays the lead role in the latest film version of the African ruler called The Last King of Scotland.

Synopsis

The film follows the fictional relationship between Amin and a young Scottish doctor, Nicholas Garrigan (played by actor James McAvoy). Garrigan travels to Uganda for adventure, but ends up becoming Amin's personal doctor.

At first Garrigan tries to ignore the crimes Amin is committing. But eventually, he understands Amin's true nature when a comment of his leads Amin to kill the health minister. Garrigan also develops an affair with one of Amin's many wives. She too is killed by Amin. In response, Garrigan tries to poison Amin, but Amin discovers this plot and orders his guards to kill Garrigan. In the end, Garrigan is saved by a fellow Ugandan doctor, and escapes with a group of hostages released during the Israeli commando operation at Entebbe International Airport.

Learning the part

American actor Forest Whitaker plays the lead role. He learnt Swahili for the role, as well as watching hours of footage of Amin's speeches. He also hung around the market in the capital, Kampala, meeting people who knew the dictator. "Everyone had stories," Whitaker said during an interview. "Many of the people I met had a dual feeling of him in the first place: some had relatives who had been killed during the regime, but there remained the feeling that he had also done certain great things for the country. That was something that I needed to understand in order to play the character."

Whitaker's performance has been particularly praised for capturing Amin's mannerisms, accent and voice. Whitaker later admitted that it was difficult to get rid of the accent afterwards. "As soon as we wrapped, I thought I had lost the accent, but when I talked to people, I realized I hadn't."

As for looking like Amin, Whitaker has this to say, "I'm three shades lighter than him, 40-50 pounds (about 10 kilos) lighter than him, my face structure is different," he said. "Luckily, I suppose that people felt the spirit of the man came across – and that's great."

Film information

The film is directed by Kevin Macdonald, who won an Oscar for his 1999 documentary on the Munich Olympics, One Day In September. It stars Forest Whitaker (who plays Idi Amin) and James McAvoy (who plays Nicholas Garrigan – the Scottish doctor). The film is based on Giles Foden's novel The Last King of Scotland. It was adapted by screenwriters Peter Morgan and Jeremy Brock. The film was shot on location in Uganda and the UK. It stars several of Uganda's leading actors.

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Answers:

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

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

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