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Fun Jokes to Match

- How do you prevent a summer cold?
- How do you avoid falling hair?
- Why did Johnny toss a glass of water out of the window?
- Did you ever see the salad dressing?
- What person is always in a hurry?
- What kind of table has no legs?
- What colour is the wind?
- What do you know about the Dead Sea.

A: No, but I saw the banana peel.
B: Blew.
C: Get out of the way.
D: Dead? I didn't even know it was sick.
E: A Russian.
F: Catch it in winter.
G: A multiplication table.
H: He wanted to see a "water fall".

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

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Story Time Joke: God Speaks

A man is talking to God. "So, God, how long is a million years?"
And God replies, "To me, it's about one minute."
And the man asks, "So, how much is a million euros?"
And God says, "To me, it is about one euro cent."
So the man says, "OK, can I have a one cent?"
And God replies "Wait a minute."

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Vocabulary: The Travel Agent's

Learn some useful vocabulary and expressions to use at the travel agent's.

Travel agency – this is the shop where you can organise and buy your holiday. They're great places to go for a chat and lots of customer attention.

Travel agent – this is the person who helps you choose your holiday. They're a dying breed as more and more people are booking their holidays on the internet, so take advantage of them while you can.

Guidebook – this is the book that's full of useful but out-of-date information on the country you plan to visit.

Phrasebook – this is the book that helps you speak a few foreign words in a heavy accent. This provides the locals with lots of entertainment.

Transport options – these are the choices you have in deciding how to reach your destination. Here are the pros and cons of each one:

- By bus – cheap, but uncomfortable.
- By ship – romantic but slow.
- By train – comfortable but expensive
- By plane – quick and cheap, but where's the pleasure in the journey?
- By bike – adventurous but tiring.
- On foot – healthy but very slow.

Ticket – this is the little piece of paper that tells you what time your plane/bus/train/ship leaves, and which often gets lost at the last minute.

Brochure – this is the little book with information on possible holiday destinations. They're full of top quality photos which are designed to tempt and mislead you.

Passport – this is the official travel document with an old photo of yourself that looks nothing like you any more. Passports have the irritating habit of becoming out-of-date just days before you are going to leave. Renewing them can take weeks, so beware!

Insect repellent – this is the spray or ointment you take with you to keep those hungry insects away. The general smell is often worse than the effects of the insect bite.

Sun cream – no matter how much of this protective cream you take, you can be sure you are going to burn yourself on your first day.

Beach resort – this is the area by the sea full of hotels, bars, restaurants, fun places to visit and lots and lots of tourists.

Hotel - this is the building where you stay. Avoid ones with empty swimming pools and groups of noisy, English tourists.

What you say

- We'd like to go away for a few days.
- We'd like to book a hotel in a beach resort.
- What can you recommend?
- Do you have anything cheaper?
- We'd like to do lots of sight-seeing.
- We'd like to try lots of local food.
- We'd like to stay in a cheap hotel next to the beach.
- We'd like a beachfront hotel.
- We'd like to stay somewhere nice and quiet.
- We're interested in going on a safari.
- Do you have any adventure holidays on offer?
- We're thinking of doing a round-the-world trip.

What you hear

- Where would you like to go?
- There's a lovely hotel right next to the beach.
- It's a four-star hotel.
- I can book it up for you.
- You'll have to reserve now or you might lose it.
- Will you be paying in cash or by credit card.

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Dialogue: Margaret goes to the Travel Agent's

Read this dialogue with a friend. In this conversation, Margaret is in the travel agent's. She wants to book a holiday.

Travel agent: Good afternoon. How may I help you?

Margaret: Good afternoon. I was thinking of going away for a week to the beach. What holidays do you have on offer?

Travel agent: OK, let me see. Have you ever been to the Greek islands?

Margaret: No. Are they nice?

Travel agent: Yes, lovely: crystal clear water, great nightlife...

Margaret: Well, actually, I was looking for something a bit quieter.

Travel agent: Corfu is a nice family destination. How about a week there?

Margaret: OK, that sounds great.

Travel agent: What kind of hotel would you be interested in?

Margaret: Well, preferably a beachfront hotel, that isn't too expensive.

Travel agent: The Nikidissis is very nice. It's a four-star hotel. I can offer you a package holiday, including travel, transport to the hotel, and full-board hotel accommodation for just 245 pounds.

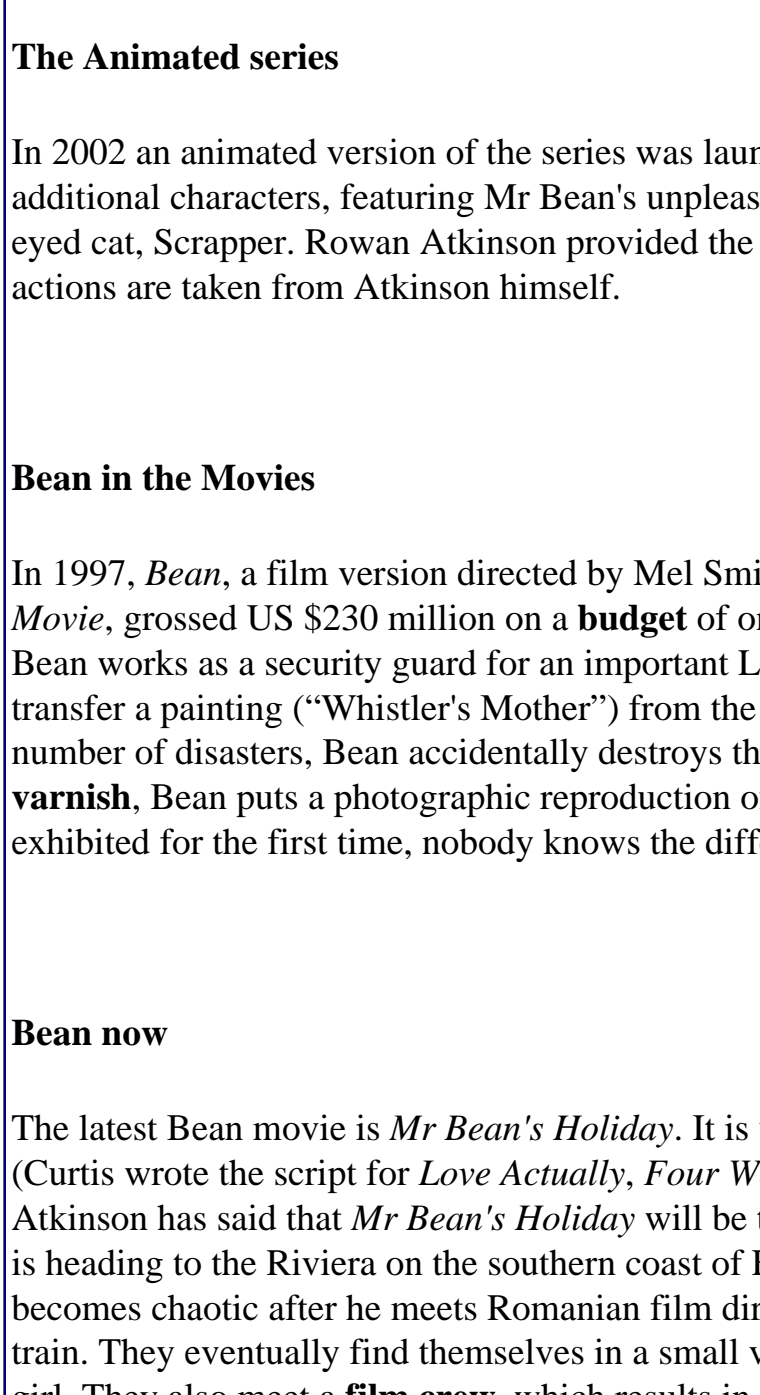
Margaret: That sounds great.

Travel agent: OK, let me just take down your details. Will you be paying by credit card?

Margaret: Yes, here you are...

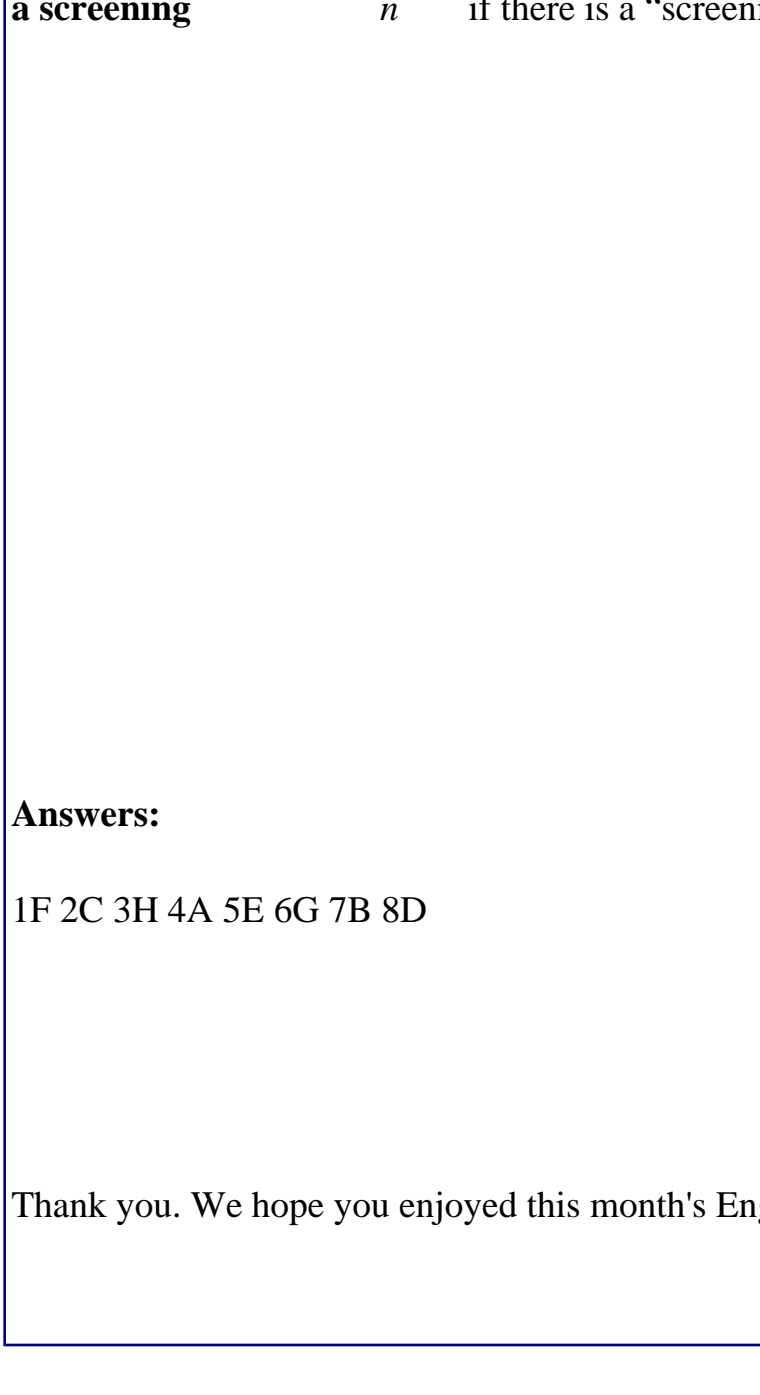
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Idiom of the Month



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Phrasal Verb of the Month



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News Article (Intermediate level): Bad Bosses

One in three employees thinks the boss is bad.

Thirty percent of all workers would like to change their boss. And nearly 25% think they could do better themselves. An ability to communicate was listed as the most important quality. However, 30% of employees thought that their manager was bad at communicating. The second most important quality was honesty. Other important qualities included an ability to delegate, being consistent, and showing understanding. Many workers said they didn't like bosses that tried to be funny, or who made jokes about other employees. The research also showed that the most popular type of manager is someone who delegates (43%); who is firm but fair (24%), and who looks after employees' careers (11%). More than 1,500 workers were interviewed for the survey.

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News Article (Advanced level): Jesus Tomb

Experts say they have found the tomb of Jesus.

A group of film-makers, theologians and statisticians say they have revealed the most important archaeological find of all time. At the centre of the find are three boxes which contain bones. These boxes, which were used to keep human bones 2,000 years ago, are known as "ossuaries". At a glance, they look like simple boxes. But the key is the inscriptions. One says Jesus, son of Joseph. Another says Mariamene, which translates as Magdalene. And some experts say that this is enough to prove these are the tombs of Jesus, his wife Mary Magdalene, their son Judah, and Jesus' mother, Mary.

A documentary about the find was shown on *The Discovery Channel*. "This is somewhat surreal," a Canadian documentary-maker Mr Jacobovici said. "To think that maybe under that blanket (referring to a blanket that was covering the boxes) are the ossuaries of Jesus of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene which lay together side by side for 2,000 years."

The finding has sparked tremendous controversy. Israeli museum curator David Mevorah said, "We know that Joseph, Jesus and Mariamene were all among the most common names of the period. To start with all these names being together in a single tomb and to leap from there to say this is the tomb of Jesus is a little far-fetched, to put it politely."

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Film: Mr Bean's Holiday

Find out all about Mr Bean, and read about his latest film.

Mr Bean's Teddy

"Teddy" is Mr Bean's best friend. Bean seems to think Teddy is a real person. He tries not to wake him in the mornings, he buys him Christmas presents, and looks after him like a child. But sometimes, often in an emergency, Bean has to use him as a **dish cloth** or paint brush.

Mr Bean's Mini

Mr Bean's lime green Mini is very important to him. He uses it to **get himself out of trouble**. He drives it while he gets dressed. And he looks after it carefully.

For example, sometimes he removes the **steering wheel** instead of the key when he parks it. Other times he hides the key under the **car bonnet**. The key for the bonnet is kept in the boot, the key for the boot is hidden somewhere else.

Mr Bean's Girlfriend

Mr Bean's "girlfriend", Irma Gobb, appears in a number of episodes. She isn't treated well by Bean. He seems to think of her more as a friend and companion than a love interest. However, he becomes jealous when she dances with another man at a disco in *Mr Bean Goes to Town*. And she certainly expects him to propose to her on Christmas Day in *Merry Christmas, Mr Bean*. But he doesn't, so Irma leaves him.

The Animated series

In 2002 an animated version of the series was launched. The series also introduced some additional characters, featuring Mr Bean's unpleasant **landlady**, Mrs Wicket and her **evil** one-eyed cat, Scrapper. Rowan Atkinson provided the voice for Bean, and all of the animated Bean actions are taken from Atkinson himself.

Bean in the Movies

In 1997, *Bean*, a US version directed by Mel Smith, also known as *Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie*, grossed a film \$230 million on a **budget** of only around US \$22 million. In the movie, Mr Bean works as a security guard for an important London art gallery. By mistake, he is chosen to transfer a painting ("Whistler's Mother") from the gallery's collection to a US gallery. After a number of disasters, Bean accidentally destroys the painting. But with a bit of creativity and some **varnish**, Bean puts a photographic reproduction of the painting in the original **frame**. When it is exhibited for the first time, nobody knows the difference.

Bean now

The latest Bean movie is *Mr Bean's Holiday*. It is written by Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis (Curtis wrote the script for *Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Notting Hill*). Atkinson has said that *Mr Bean's Holiday* will be the last Mr Bean movie. In the movie, Mr Bean is heading to the Riviera on the southern coast of France for a holiday. However, his journey becomes chaotic after he meets Romanian film director Emil and his 8-year-old son Stefan, on a train. They eventually find themselves in a small village. There, they meet Sabine, a pretty young girl. They also meet a **film crew**, which results in an unexpected **screening** of Bean's video diary at the Cannes Film Festival.

Glossary

a dish cloth	<i>n</i>	a piece of material used to clean plates or surfaces in the house
to get yourself out of trouble	<i>exp</i>	to create problems for yourself
a steering wheel	<i>n</i>	the round object in a car that you hold and use to change the direction
a car bonnet	<i>n</i>	the metal cover over the engine at the front of the car
a landlady	<i>n</i>	a woman who permits people to live in a building/house/flat in return for money
evil	<i>adj</i>	bad, cruel, etc
a budget	<i>n</i>	money allocated for a project
varnish	<i>n</i>	a chemical liquid used to cover wood in order to preserve it
a frame	<i>n</i>	the metal/wooden thing that is fitted around a painting/picture, etc
a film crew	<i>n</i>	the people who involved in filming a movie: the director, the lighting specialist, etc
a screening	<i>n</i>	if there is a "screening" of a film, that film is shown to the public

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Answers:

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

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

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