

Welcome to the *Answer English* June English Class.

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Jokes to Match

Here are two halves of some very ridiculous jokes. See if you can match the two halves. Good luck, and try not to laugh too much!

1. Why do idiots write TGIF on their shoes?
2. What's the similarity between a couple who's been married for twenty years and a bank account with no money?
3. What did the idiot call his pet zebra?
4. How do you keep an idiot amused for hours?
5. How do you know which computer the idiot was using?
6. What do you call a man with a bag of sugar on his head?

Answers

- A: Spot.
B: Sweetie.
C: Toes Go In First.
D: Give him a piece of paper with "please turn over" written on both sides.
E: There's no interest.
F: It's got tippex on the screen.

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

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Vocabulary: Renting a Flat

Flat/apartment – rooms in a building that you can rent (attic-flat; first-floor flat; second-floor flat, etc.)

Studio flat – one bedroom and living room combined

Terraced house – a line of houses all the same

A semi-detached house (a house that is joined to another house)

A detached house – a house that is separate and not joined to another house

Shower – the thing in the bathroom that you can stand and wash yourself in

Bath – the object in the bathroom that you can sit in to wash

Bathroom – the place where you wash

Air conditioning – a machine that emits cold air

Heating (radiators) – the system of making the flat/house warm. It can be powered by gas or electricity

Washing machine – an electrical appliance for cleaning clothes

Living room – the place where the TV/sofa, etc is

Bedroom – the room where you sleep

Kitchen – the room where you cook

Fridge – an electrical appliance for keeping food cold

An oven – an electrical appliance for cooking food

Furniture – tables/chairs, etc (furnished – with furniture; un-furnished – without furniture)

Wardrobe – a place for keeping your clothes. It is very big and tall

A chest of drawers – a place for keeping socks, pants, T-shirts etc.

A sink – the object in a bathroom you use for washing your hands

Flooring – the object that you walk on in a flat. It can have a carpet on it, or be made of wood (or even sand if you're unlucky)

Landlord/landlady – the owner of the flat/house

Deposit – a sum of money you give as a type of insurance for the landlord/landlady

Fully-equipped – with electrical appliances and furniture

Useful Expressions

What type of flooring does it have?

When is it available?

Is it near the Underground?

Does it include the service charge?

Does it have a garage?

Does it have a nice view?

Is it a light flat?

How much is the deposit?

Could I come round to see the flat?

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Dialogue: Checking out a Flat for Rent

Petra has come to look around a flat. She may want to rent it. She is speaking to the landlord.

Petra : Hi, I've come round to see the flat.

Landlord: Oh, right. Come in. So, this is the living room.

Petra : Looks nice. So, is the flat furnished?

Landlord: Yes, I'm going to leave all the furniture here.

Petra : Great. Is the kitchen fully-equipped?

Landlord: There's a fridge and an oven, but I'm afraid there's no washing machine. However, there is a launderette really close by.

Petra : OK.

Landlord: Now, this is the bedroom.

Petra : Very nice. It looks quite light. Does it get any sun?

Landlord: Well, when it isn't raining, you will get a bit of sun in the afternoon.

Petra : OK, and how much is the deposit?

Landlord: Well, I'll need one month's rent as deposit. Plus you pay one month in advance.

Petra : And how much is the monthly rent?

Landlord: It's 600 pounds per calendar month.

Petra : So, I'll have to give you 1,200 pounds when I move in.

Landlord: Yes, that's right.

Petra : OK, well. I'm definitely interested.

Landlord: We can sign the contract now if you want.

Petra : OK, great.

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Idiom of the Month

"The birds and the bees" - refers to sex and human reproduction.

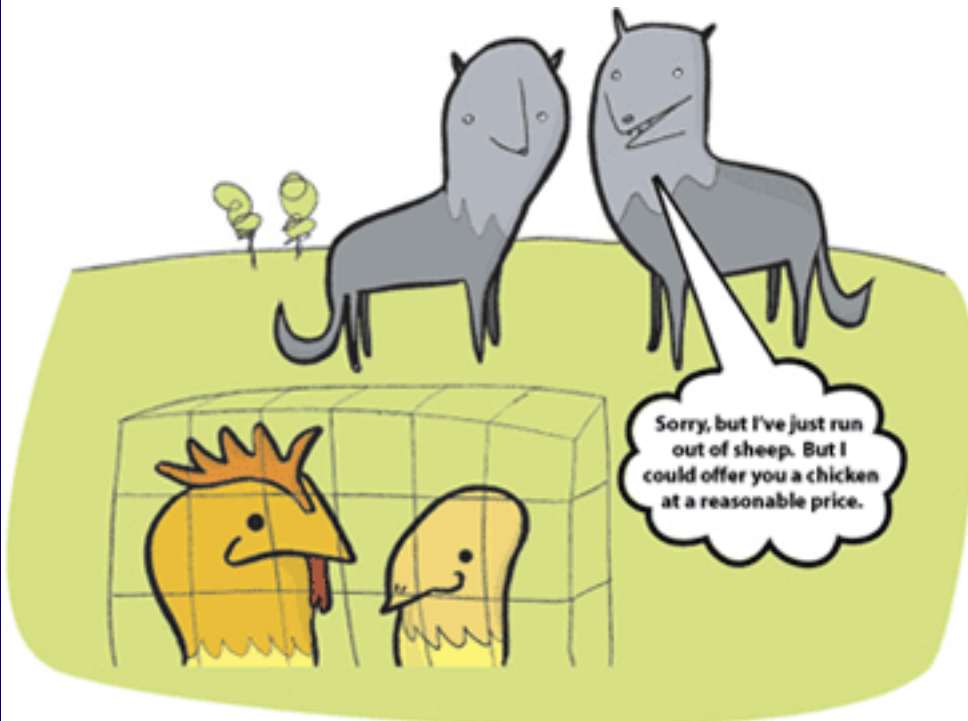


E.g. I never found out about the birds and the bees until I was 17.

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Phrasal Verb of the Month

“Run out of something” - if you have “run out of” something, you have no more of that thing.



News Article (Advanced level): Rooney's Ruin

England striker's World Cup dream is shattered .

“It was horrible, and I'm **devastated** ,” said England footballer Wayne Rooney after an injury that may mean he won't participate in the World Cup in June. He added, “I'll be coming in for **treatment** every day and trying to **give myself the best possible chance**. You've just got to **get on with it** and be positive.”

A hospital scan showed **multiple fractures** in his foot. “ **It looks bleak,**” said a hospital source. “It was originally thought he had suffered a broken bone. The scan shows other fractures. It will be three to four weeks before his injuries even start to **heal**. It's **heartbreaking** for both Wayne and all the fans.”

A source close to Rooney's manager, Sir Alex Fergusson, said, “Sir Alex believes it's unrealistic to **build up England fans' hopes** that Rooney will **make the finals**. The scan shows he's right. Wayne will be in **plaster** for weeks... it's very sad for the **lad** — and everyone who loves football.”

Glossary

devastated	<i>adj</i>	very, very sad
treatment	<i>n</i>	medical care and attention
to give yourself the best possible chance	<i>exp</i>	to do whatever you can to improve your situation
to get on with it	<i>exp</i>	to continue, in spite of difficulties

a multiple fracture	<i>n</i>	a break in many places in a leg/arm bone
it looks bleak	<i>exp</i>	to looks very bad and not good for the future
to heal	<i>vb</i>	to cure; to become better
heartbreaking	<i>adj</i>	very, very sad
to build up someone's hopes	<i>exp</i>	to create false expectations
to make the finals	<i>exp</i>	to be able to play in the World Cup
in plaster	<i>exp</i>	in a thick cast (made of a hard, white material) that protects your broken arm/leg
a lad	<i>n inform</i>	a boy/man

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News Article (Intermediate level): Stone Damages

Sharon Stone wins a court case against the British newspaper the Daily Mail.

“The articles were **printed in good faith**,” said the lawyer acting for British newspaper Daily Mail. The paper has admitted that allegations made in a story concerning Sharon Stone were untrue. They also **apologised** for the embarrassment caused to the Hollywood star.

In the article, headlined “Sharon's son sleeps in car while she **dines out**”, the paper claimed the star had **enjoyed a dinner date** at The Ivy restaurant in central London while her four-year-old son stayed outside in a car with a chauffeur for more than two hours. The Daily Mail agreed to **pay “substantial” damages** to Sharon Stone. Stone's solicitor said his client would donate the money to charity.

Glossary

in good faith	<i>exp</i>	with the belief that everything was correct/legal
to apologise	<i>vb</i>	to say that you are sorry about something
to dine out	<i>phr vb</i>	to eat in a restaurant
to enjoy a dinner date	<i>exp</i>	to eat in a restaurant with a lover/partner/boy/girlfriend, etc
to pay substantial damages to someone	<i>exp</i>	to pay a lot of money as compensation

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Film – Goya's Ghosts

There's a new film all about the Spanish artist Goya (1746 – 1828). It stars Natalie Portman, Stellan Skarsgård, and Spanish actor Javier Bardem, and it's directed by Milos Forman. It was shot on location in Spain during late 2005. So, what's it all about?

The Plot

It's 1792 in Spain. Spain's neighbour, France, is **in turmoil** because of the revolution. In Spain, the church decides to **restore order** by **brining back** the **Inquisition**. Leading the new movement is the **cunning priest** Lorenzo (played by Javier Bardem).

At the same time, Francisco Goya (played by Stellan Skarsgård), Spain's most famous artist is in trouble. His beautiful model, Inés (played by Natalie Portman) is accused of being a **heretic** and **put on trial**. She's **imprisoned** and tortured by the Inquisition.

Goya goes to his friend, Lorenzo, and begs Lorenzo to **spare the poor girl's life**. But eventually, Inés is **left to perish** in the **dungeons**, while Lorenzo is **banished** from the Spanish church. Some twenty years pass, and Goya is at the height of his creativity, but he has become deaf and somewhat insane. The three meet again after the French abolish the Inquisition and set the prisoners free. What's going to happen?

Film Trivia

Goya is played in the film by Danish actor Stellan Skarsgard, filling a role that reportedly was first offered to Gary Oldman.

In addition to playing the muse (Ines), Portman will also portray her own teenage daughter (Alicia) in the film.

Milos Forman co-wrote the **script** with Jean-Claude Carriere.

Asked if he would ever consider **giving up** making films, Forman said, "I'm still excited about making movies."

Director Milos Forman and producer Saul Zaentz collaborated on the Academy Award-winning films *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*.

Glossary

in turmoil	<i>exp</i>	in a state of confusion and lack of control
to restore order	<i>exp</i>	to create a situation of control
to bring something back	<i>exp</i>	to make something return
the Inquisition	<i>n</i>	a religious organisation that interrogated non-religious people
cunning	<i>adj</i>	with the ability to get things in a clever way
a priest	<i>n</i>	an official member of a religious group
a heretic	<i>n</i>	a person whose beliefs or actions are considered wrong by the majority
to put someone on trial	<i>exp</i>	to start a legal process against someone
to imprison someone	<i>exp</i>	to put someone in prison
to spare someone's life	<i>exp</i>	not to kill someone who was going to be executed
left to perish	<i>exp</i>	left to die with no food, water or attention
a dungeon	<i>n</i>	a dark underground prison in a castle
to banish someone	<i>exp</i>	to force someone to leave a country as a punishment
a script	<i>n</i>	the text for a film
to give up doing something	<i>exp</i>	to stop doing something

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Answers to Fun Jokes:

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

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