

Welcome to the *Answer English* July 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. What is the longest word in the English language?
2. A man was injected with a deadly poison, but, it did not kill him. Why?
3. Why do cows have bells?
4. How do you count a herd of cattle?
5. What's red and looks like a bottle?
6. What driver doesn't have a licence?

A: He was already dead!

B: A red bottle.

C: With a “cowculator”.

D: Screwdriver.

E: Because their horns don't work!

F: “Smiles”. Because there is a mile between its first and last letters!

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

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Story Time Jokes

The Transplant

A man needs a **heart transplant** but the only heart available is that of a sheep. The man finally agrees and the doctor transplants the sheep heart into the man. A few days after the operation, the man comes in for a **check-up** . “So, how are you feeling?” the doctor asks him.

And the man replies, “Not BAAAAAAAAAAD!”

Good News

An elderly woman **bursts into** a **priest's** office and says, "I've got to tell you this. I'm 90 years old. For the past seventy years I've been married to my one and only husband, and I've never **cheated on** him. But just last week, this **gorgeous**, young man **moved in** next door, and since then, well, you know, it's been, like, wow!"

The priest looks at her then says. "Madam, how long has it been since your last Confession?"

"Confession? I've never been to Confession. I'm an **atheist**," she says.

"Then why are you telling me?" the priest asks.

"I'm telling EVERYONE!"

Glossary

a heart transplant	<i>n</i>	a surgical operation that consists of giving someone a new heart
a check-up	<i>n</i>	a medical examination to see if you are physically OK
to burst into a place	<i>exp</i>	to enter a place suddenly and with force/violence
a priest	<i>n</i>	a member of a religious order/group
to cheat on someone	<i>exp</i>	to have a relationship with someone who isn't your husband/wife/ partner
gorgeous	<i>adj</i>	very attractive
to move in	<i>phr vb</i>	to enter a house and to start living there
an atheist	<i>n</i>	a person who doesn't think that God exists

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Vocabulary: Asking for Directions

Here is some useful vocabulary to use when asking for directions.

- Go straight on until you come to...
- Turn left into Gordon Street .
- Take the next left.
- Cross over the road and...
- It's the first/second/third on the left. Take the first/second/third road on the left
- It's opposite the church
- It's next to the bank
- It's between the school and the shop.
- It's at the end of the road.
- It's on the corner of Market Street and Baker Street .
- It's just behind this building.
- It's in front of the school.
- It's just around the corner.
- Turn/go right at the traffic lights.
- Turn/go left at the crossroads/junction.
- Bank Street is parallel with this street.
- Penny Street is perpendicular to this street.
- It's four blocks down the street on this side of the road.
- Turn right at the roundabout.

Useful expressions:

- I'm trying to get to X.
- Do you know where X is?
- Excuse me, do you know where the X is?
- What's the best way to get to X?
- Is it far?
- I haven't got a clue where I am. Could you help?
- Help me!
- Mummy!

Phrases you don't want to hear

Here are some expressions that might worry you when asking for directions. Start to worry if you hear one of these phrases:

What they say

It's about five minutes from here.

We're almost there.

I've been here hundreds of times before.

I know it's here somewhere.

According to the map we're just here.

The map's obviously out of date.

It's just around the corner.

It's just over that hill.

You can't miss it.

It's very easy to find.

What they really mean

It's far away.

There's still a long way to go.

I've never been here in my life.

I'm lost.

I'm really lost even though I've got a map.

I'm lost but won't admit it.

I'm lost.

There's a long way to go.

It's really hard to see.

It's really hard to find.

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Dialogue: Finding your way

In this dialogue, Pedro has got lost. He stops a pedestrian to ask for directions.

Pedro: Excuse me, could you help me?

Pedestrian: Yeah, sure. What's up?

Pedro: I'm looking for Oxford Circus.

Pedestrian: Well, that's easy. You need to go straight down this street till you get to a crossroads, then you turn right, then take the first left...

Pedro: Sorry, I don't speak very good English. Please, tell me slower.

Pedestrian: Oh, you mean, speak more s l o w l y. Oh, right. Well, the short version is that you need to walk down the street, then turn right. After that, you should ask someone else, cos it's a bit complicated.

Pedro: OK, thank you very much.

Pedestrian: No problem.

(five minutes later)

Pedro: Excuse me, madam. I'm looking for Oxford Circus.

Pedestrian: Oh, right. You aren't far. It's the street that runs parallel with this one.

Pedro: Parallel?

Pedestrian: Yes, it's in line with this street. Just turn up here, then take the first left and keep walking. You can't miss it.

Pedro: OK, thank you very much.

Pedestrian: All right. Good luck.

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Idiom of the Month

Like a headless chicken

(US English = like a chicken with its head cut off)



If you do something “like a headless chicken”, you do it very quickly, or under a lot of stress, and without thinking or analysing the situation carefully.

“Six people were absent from work this week, and I've been running around like a headless chicken trying to do everyone else's jobs.”

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Phrasal Verb of the Month

See someone off (before going on a journey)



To accompany someone to the airport/port/train station, in order to say goodbye to them. "She came to the train station to see me off."

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News Article (Advanced level): Temper Tantrum

Elton John attacks photographers at Cannes.

"You photographers should all be shot." That's how Elton John responded to photographers who interrupted him at the Cannes Film Festival. The singer **lost his temper** as he was presenting an **award** to Kevin Zegers, the star of the film *TransAmerica*. Elton said, "Zegers is only 21 years old, already he showed incredible talent and **maturity**. I believe he will be a **huge star** and a great actor for many years to come." It was at this point that a photographer called out and Elton **snapped**. After **handing out** the award, Elton added, "**They are a nightmare**."

Meanwhile, Elton John's TV **sitcom** has **bombed** in the US. The British pop legend had produced a comedy called “Him and Us” about an **over-the-hill rock star** named Max Flash. But the **pilot** – which **was rumoured to feature** guest appearances from Mick Jagger – **was not picked up** by any TV networks in America, and will not be made into a series.

Glossary

lost his temper	<i>exp</i>	became very angry
an award	<i>n</i>	a prize
maturity	<i>n</i>	the state of being fully developed
a huge star	<i>n</i>	a very famous person
to snap	<i>vb</i>	to become angry suddenly
to hand out	<i>phr</i>	to give
	<i>vb</i>	
they are a nightmare	<i>exp</i>	they are terrible/horrible/unbearable
to bomb	<i>vb</i>	to fail; not to succeed
	<i>inform</i>	
an over-the-hill rock star	<i>n</i>	an old rock star who is too old to be a rock star; a rock star who is no longer famous
a pilot	<i>n</i>	a show that is produced as a test to see if audiences like it, etc
was rumoured to feature (Mick)	<i>exp</i>	people said that Mick was in it
was not picked up	<i>exp</i>	was not chosen/taken/accepted/bought

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News Article (Intermediate level): Mascot Mauled

German *mascot* fails to connect with the public.

He was supposed to be the World Cup mascot. But now the company that produces him is in financial trouble. German toymaker Nici had paid 28 million euros for the mascot known as “Goleo”.

The lion is dressed in a **football kit**. It sells for 19,95 euros. It has confused German fans as it has little connection to Germany. In fact, the lion is the symbol of Germany 's greatest footballing rival, England. The football tournament is seen as a **money-spinner** for any company. Adidas' profits have already **soared** thanks to demand for football products. Not so for Nici, who seem to have **scored an own goal** this time.

Glossary

a mascot	<i>n</i>	toy/object/cartoon that acts as a symbol of a competition
a football kit	<i>n</i>	clothing worn by football players
to puzzle someone	<i>exp</i>	to confuse someone
a lack of shorts	<i>exp</i>	with no shorts (clothing worn on the legs – often to do sport)
a money-spinner	<i>n</i>	an event/product that generates a lot of money
to soar	<i>vb</i>	to increase very quickly
to score an own goal	<i>exp</i>	to do something bad against yourself. Literally, to hit the ball into your own goal

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Films: Superman Returns & Poseidon

Superman Returns

The film stars actor Brandon Routh as Clark Kent, and Australian actress Kate Bosworth as Lois Lane. The film is directed by Bryan Singer. So, what's it all about? Superman has been away, investigating his home world, Krypton. Years later, he returns to Earth, only to discover that the woman he loves, Lois Lane, **has moved on with her life**. Lane is now in a serious relationship with another man, Richard White, and has had a young child. In the meantime his old **nemesis**, Lex Luthor (played by Kevin Spacey), has been released from prison. Luthor plans to **make Superman powerless** by using some stolen crystals. Will Superman be able to stop the evil Luthor?

Poseidon

This is Wolfgang Peterson's remake of the 1972 film, *The Poseidon Adventure*. Critics say it's a mixture between *Titanic* and *The Perfect Storm* (also directed by Peterson). The film stars Josh Lucas, Kurt Russell and Richard Dreyfuss

It takes place around New Year aboard the cruise ship Poseidon. As the guests are celebrating the New Year, a giant **wave** suddenly crashes into the ship and **flips it upside down**. A group of survivors realise **their only chance** is to **make their way to** the bottom of the ship (which is now at the top). Will they **make it** ?

Glossary

has moved on with her life	<i>exp</i>	has changed her life and stopped remembering the past
a nemesis	<i>n</i>	a person who wants to destroy/harm you
to make someone powerless	<i>exp</i>	to take away someone's special powers
a wave	<i>n</i>	a large area of water in the sea

to flip something upside down	<i>exp</i>	to make the top part of something be on the bottom
their only chance	<i>exp</i>	their only opportunity to survive/be saved
to make your way to a place	<i>exp</i>	to go to a place (usually with difficulty)
make it	<i>exp</i>	to survive; to live despite a bad experience

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Answers to Fun Jokes:

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

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