

Welcome to the *Answer English* August English Class.

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Jokes to Match

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

1. On which side does a tiger have most stripes?
2. Who went into the tigers den and came out alive?
3. What do you get if you cross a tiger with a kangaroo?
4. If a four-legged animal is a quadruped, and a two-legged animal is a biped, what's a tiger?
5. What's the silliest name you can give a tiger?
6. What's striped and goes round and round?
7. What do you do if a gorilla decides to sleep in your bed?
8. What do you call a gorilla with a gun?

A: A stripey jumper.

B: A tiger in a revolving door.

C: Sir.

D: The tiger.

E: Spot.

F: Stri-ped.

G: On the outside.

H: Sleep somewhere else.

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

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Story Time Jokes

Jumpy Driver

A man stops a taxi in the main street and **jumps in**. As they're driving along, he **taps the driver on the shoulder** to ask him a question. Immediately, the driver screams, loses control of the car, nearly hits a bus, goes up on the **pavement**, and stops a few centimetres from a shop window. For a second everything goes quiet in the **cab**, then the driver looks round and says, "Look, **mate**, don't ever do that again. **You scared the living daylights out of me.**"

The passenger apologises, and says, "I'm sorry, but I didn't realise that a little tap on the shoulder

would scare you so much.” And the driver replies, “Look, I'm sorry too. It's really not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. For the last 25 years I've been driving a **funeral van.**”

Glossary

to jump in	<i>phr vb</i>	to enter a place quickly
to tap someone on the shoulder	<i>exp</i>	to hit someone gently with your finger on the shoulder (the joint at the top of their arm)
the pavement	<i>n</i>	the area next to a road where people walk
a cab	<i>n inform</i>	a taxi
mate	<i>n inform</i>	a friend
you scared the living daylights out of me	<i>exp</i>	you really frightened me
a funeral van	<i>n</i>	a car used for transporting a dead person to a funeral (the ceremony for that person)

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Situation / Vocabulary: Ordering at a Restaurant

What you say

Excuse me, we're ready to order.

I'll have a sparkling water, please.

I'll have the soup.

I'll have the steak. (Rare/Medium/Well-done)

Can I have the bill, please?

Can I pay by credit card?

Can you split the bill in half?

What you hear

I'll be with you in just a minute.

What would you like to drink?

What would you like for first course?

What would you like for the main course?

How would you like the steak?

Would you like to see the dessert menu?

Would you like any tea or coffee?

Can we offer you a drink, compliments of the house?

Do you want to see the wine menu?

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Dialogue: At the Restaurant

Alicia is at a restaurant. She is ordering some food.

Waiter: Good evening, madam. Can I get you anything to drink?

Alicia: Yes, I'll have a glass of red wine, please.

Waiter: And what would you like for the first course?

Alicia: I'll have the prawn cocktail, please.

Waiter: And for the main course?

Alicia: A steak, please.

Waiter: And how would you like your steak?

Alicia: I'll have it medium rare, please.

Waiter: Very well.

A few minutes later.

Waiter: Here you are. One prawn cocktail.

Alicia: Thank you very much. Oh, could you bring me another glass of red wine, please?

Waiter: Certainly.

Idiom of the Month

Take to something like a duck to water

To learn how to do something very quickly and to enjoy doing it.
“Young Charles started school last week and he’s taken to it like a duck to water”.



Phrasal Verb of the Month



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News Article (Advanced level): Show Stopper!

Britain's weekly pop music show has come to an end.

It was Britain 's biggest pop show. And now it's been **axed**. "In a rapidly changing musical landscape Top of the Pops no longer occupies the central role it once did," said a BBC spokesperson, after announcing the end of the television show Top of the Pops. Many **blame** the digital revolution. The BBC said the increase in 24-hour digital music channels and the **accessibility** of music via **internet downloads** meant that the show had **lost meaning**.

In the 1970s, Top of the Pops had **audiences of 15 million**; but recent **viewing figures** had fallen to **an average of about one million** a week. "The way music is **accessed** and consumed is so fast-moving that people don't need to **rely on** that weekly TV show," said a music spokesperson. Curiously, TV viewers in Italy, France and Holland will continue to enjoy their own versions of Top of the Pops. "It is fundamentally the same show - they use the same name, it has the same look and

the same general **vibe** to it. They do really well,” said a spokesman for BBC Worldwide, the **commercial arm** of the BBC.

Glossary

to axe	<i>vb</i>	if a TV show is “axed”, it is ended
to blame	<i>vb</i>	to say that something is responsible for a bad situation
accessibility	<i>n</i>	if something has good “accessibility”, it is easy to have/reach, etc
internet downloads	<i>n</i>	files/sound files you take from the internet and put on your computer
to lose meaning	<i>exp</i>	to have no more importance or sense
audiences of 15 million	<i>exp</i>	15 million people watching it
viewing figures	<i>n</i>	the numbers of people watching a programme
an average of about one million	<i>exp</i>	more or less one million
to access	<i>vb</i>	if you can “access” music, you can have/download/listen to that music
to rely on something	<i>exp</i>	to depend on something
a vibe	<i>n</i>	an atmosphere
a commercial arm	<i>n</i>	the business sector of an organisation

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News Article (Intermediate level): Bear Attack

Brown bear shot in Germany.

The bear appeared. Germans celebrated. Then they shot it. Bruno, the brown bear, who had spent

several weeks travelling between the mountains of Italy, Austria and Germany, was **shot dead** by **hunters** in Bavaria. The hunters had been given permission to shoot it by Bavaria's **rightwing environment minister**, Werner Schnappauf.

“Mr Schnappauf should **resign**,” said Heike Finke, spokeswoman for Germany's Wildlife Alliance. “Other countries such as France, Romania, Austria and Italy manage to co-exist with bears. But three weeks after the first one **turns up** in Germany we have to shoot it. It's so frustrating.”

Glossary

to shoot something dead	<i>exp</i>	to kill something with a gun
a hunter	<i>n</i>	a person who tries to find animals to kill or catch them
rightwing	<i>adj</i>	very conservative in terms of politics and ideas
an environment minister	<i>n</i>	the government minister in charge of the environment (the natural world/the air/sea/land, etc)
to resign	<i>vb</i>	to leave your job voluntarily
to turn up	<i>phr vb</i>	to arrive

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Films: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

This pirate adventure film follows the 2003 summer blockbuster *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. It's directed by Gore Verbinski, and stars Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, and Keira Knightley. Stellan Skarsgård plays the part of Will Turner's father, “Bootstrap Bill” Turner, and Geoffrey Rush makes a **cameo appearance** as Captain Barbossa.

In this film, Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann are due to be married, but their wedding doesn't go according to plan, and they soon find themselves **caught up with** Jack Sparrow. Jack must find the legendary “Dead Man's **Chest**”, or **surrender his soul for all eternity**. The legendary rock star Keith Richards, had originally agreed to appear in a cameo appearance as Jack Sparrow's father, but had to **pull out** because of a Rolling Stones concert tour.

Glossary

a cameo appearance	<i>n</i>	a short, un-credited appearance in a film by someone famous
caught up with	<i>exp</i>	involved with (usually something bad)
a chest	<i>n</i>	a large container for jewels/gold, etc
to surrender his soul for eternity	<i>exp</i>	to give your soul (your spirit) to an evil force
to pull out of something	<i>exp</i>	to stop forming part of something

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Answers to Fun Jokes:

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

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