

Welcome to the *Answer English* September 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. What animal has two humps and is found at the North Pole?
2. What keys are furry?
3. Which cat should you never play cards with?
4. Why don't leopards escape from the zoo for long?
5. What does a kitten become after its three days old?
6. Why are elephants wrinkled?
7. Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
8. What is a crocodile's favourite game?

A: A cheetah.

B: To the moo-vies.

C: Four days old.

D: A lost camel.

E: Snap.

F: Monkeys.

G: Have you tried to iron one?

H: Because they are easily spotted.

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

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Story Time Jokes

Wrong Call

A woman calls a **record shop** because she wants to buy a couple of CDs. However, she **dials** the wrong number and gets a private home instead. When a man answers, the woman, thinking it's a record shop, asks, "Do you have, 'Golden Eyes' and 'Woman of Woe'?" "Well, no," the confused man answers. "But I do have a wife and eleven children." "Is that a **record**?" the woman asks.

"I don't think so," replies the man, "but that's as close to a record as I want to get."

Glossary

a record shop	<i>n</i>	a shop that sells music CDs/DVDs, etc
to dial (a number)	<i>exp</i>	to press the telephone buttons with numbers on them so you can call someone
a record	<i>n</i>	a song/album on a CD

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Situation / Vocabulary: At an Interview

What the interviewer says

I'm looking for someone who can...

Do you know how to...

Do you have much experience in/with...?

How long were you working as a...

Have you ever...?

What type of person would you say you are?

What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself?

Have you ever worked in a team?

Tell me about your employment history.

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Why would you be good for this position?

Why are you interested in this position?

What would you do in X situation?

What are your hobbies?

What do you do in your free time?

Have you ever had to do X?

What do you know about our company?

Tell me about yourself.

Why are you suited for this position?

What did you like about your previous positions?

What didn't you like?

Tell me about your greatest achievement.

What you say

I'm good at...

I know how to...

I've had experience with...

I was working for X years as a...

I am hardworking/independent/good at working in a team/ambitious, etc

I have initiative/drive/ambition/good skills at, etc

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Dialogue: The Interview

Lucy is going for her first job interview for a Sales Manager position. See how she gets on.

Lucy: Hi, I've come about the job interview.

Employer: Oh, yes. Please take a seat. So, I can see from your CV that you were working in marketing. What was that like?

Lucy: Oh, it was really interesting, but I think I'm looking for something a bit more challenging. I didn't really have any responsibility there.

Employer: OK, and you're applying for the job here as sales manager. What makes you suitable for this job?

Lucy: Well, I'm really organized, I've got good experience in sales, I know how to manage a team and I'm very good at motivating people.

Employer: OK, tell me a little bit about yourself now. What do you do in your free time?

Lucy: Well, I love reading. I do lots of sport too.

Employer: OK, and what do you know about our company.

Lucy: Well, the company was recently bought out by an Australian conglomerate, and the new acting CEO is Mike Mayers.

Employer: Impressive. Not a lot of people know that.

OK, well, I can say that we're definitely interested. I'm going to be interviewing a few more people this week, then I'll be in contact with you some time at the end of the week.

Lucy: Great. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Idiom of the Month

Wild -goose chase

A situation in which you **waste time** looking for something that you are not going to find, either because that thing does not exist or because you have been given the wrong information.

“After two hours walking about in the forest looking for the treasure, I realised we were on a wild-goose chase – it simply didn’t exist.”



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Phrasal Verb of the Month



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News Article (Advanced level): NRA Rage

Gun lobby angry after new law proposed.

“Some 200,000 people are shot dead every year in homicides, while a further 50,000 are victims of gun suicides,” said Rebecca Peters, the director of the International Action Network on Small Arms (the IANSA). Discussions are now **due to start** on an international treaty to reduce the **trafficking** and **misuse of guns**. More than 45 states back the treaty, but it faces opposition from countries such as China, Pakistan, India and Russia.

Meanwhile, the National Rifle Association, one of America's most effective **lobby groups**, is furious

about the **initiative**. On its website, the NRA wrote, “These dictatorships, terrorist states and so-called ‘free’ nations of the world plan to meet on **our home soil** to finalise a UN treaty that would **strip** all citizens of all nations of their right to self-protection, and strip you of your rights under the second amendment (the right to bear arms).”

Glossary

due to start	<i>exp</i>	expected/planned to start
trafficking	<i>n</i>	buying and selling illegally
the misuse of guns	<i>exp</i>	using guns to commit murder or other crimes
a lobby group	<i>n</i>	a group that pressurises government ministers and tries to influence them
an initiative	<i>n</i>	an important, official and organised act that is designed to resolve a problem
our home soil	<i>n</i>	our land
to strip someone of something	<i>exp</i>	to take something away from someone

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News Article (Intermediate level): Phone First

Camera phones could replace digital cameras in the future.

Do you use your mobile phone to take pictures? A study by phone company Nokia found that 44% of people use their mobile phone as their main camera. The **research** also showed that 72% use their phone as their alarm clock; and 73% use their phone instead of a **wristwatch**. Also, 33% of those questioned said they would rather lose their **wallet** or **purse** than their mobile. And a fifth of **respondents** would rather lose their wedding ring than their **handset**.

A marketing executive from Nokia said, “Handsets are starting to **take over** so many areas of everyday life because problems with early models have been **ironed out**.”

The Nokia research into mobile habits questioned 5,500 people aged between 18 and 35 in 11 nations in early 2006.

Glossary

research	<i>n</i>	investigation
a wristwatch	<i>n</i>	an object that you wear on your arm that tells you the time
a wallet	<i>n</i>	an object men use for keeping their money/credit cards, etc
a purse	<i>n</i>	an object women use for keeping their money/credit cards, etc
a respondent	<i>n</i>	someone who answers questions in a survey
a handset	<i>n</i>	a mobile phone
to take over	<i>phr vb</i>	to dominate
to iron out	<i>phr vb</i>	to find solutions to problems

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Film: Miami Vice

What's your favourite television **cop show**? In the 1980s, one of the most popular was Miami Vice. It had a huge influence on fashion, music and television. Right now there's a film that's based on the series.

Culture & Violence

When Miami Vice came out in the 1980s, it was something completely different to other detective shows. There were episodes on cocaine trafficking, there was lots of casual violence, and it all took place in exotic and subtropical Miami. The cinematography was different too. In fact, many say the

show was a bit like one long music video. As Lee Katkin, one of the series directors, said, “The show is written for an MTV audience, which is more interested in images, emotions and energy than **plot** and character”. This helped make the series into an **instant hit**.

Many famous bands and singers contributed their music to the show, including Jackson Browne, Phil Collins, Bryan Adams, Tina Turner, Peter Gabriel, Depeche Mode, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, and Billy Idol. Famous actors also appeared on the show, including Miles Davis, Bruce Willis, Viggo Mortensen, Ben Stiller, Wesley Snipes, Liam Neeson, Chris Rock, Julia Roberts, Melanie Griffith and Benicio Del Toro.

Fashion & Architecture

The show had a big influence on men's fashion. For a start, there was the “T-shirt under Giorgio Armani jacket” look. Then there was the **unshaven look**, which was inspired by Crockett's permanent **beard stubble**, also known as “the **five o'clock shadow** at all times”.

Some say the show helped saved many of Miami's unique Art Deco buildings. At the time of the show, the area around South Beach was poor and **rundown**, and it had a high crime rate. In fact, some street corners of South Beach were so bad that the production crew actually repainted the walls of some buildings before filming. However, after the show, many of the beachfront hotels and buildings were **renovated**, turning that part of South Beach into one of Southern Florida's most popular places for tourists and celebrities.

Two Cops

So what was the show about? Miami Vice was all about two **undercover** Miami police detectives: James “Sonny” Crockett (played by Don Johnson), and Ricardo “Rico” Tubbs (played by Philip Michael Thomas). They drove around in fast cars and fast boats, and worked against the city's criminals. The series ran for five seasons on NBC from 1984 to 1989.

Miami Vice 2006

The film adaptation of *Miami Vice* is directed by Michael Mann (director of *Heat*). It stars Irish actor Colin Farrell, who plays Crockett, and American actor Jamie Foxx, who plays Tubbs. The two of them go undercover on a secret investigation, and **take on** the **drug-trafficking network** of the mysterious Archangel de Jesus Montoya-Londono and his Cuban Chinese banker Isabella. Things get particularly tense when Crockett falls for Isabella.

Glossary

a cop show	<i>n</i>	a television series about police officers and criminals, etc
the plot	<i>n</i>	the story in the film
an instant hit	<i>n</i>	a show that becomes popular immediately
an unshaven look	<i>n</i>	a man has an “unshaven look”, he hasn't shaved (cut the hair from his face)
beard stubble	<i>n</i>	very short hairs on the face
a five o'clock shadow	<i>n</i>	a dark area of short hairs on the face caused by not shaving. Literally, a “shadow” is a dark area created when something stops light hitting a surface
rundown	<i>adj</i>	broken, destroyed, not cared for, not repaired
to renovate	<i>vb</i>	to fix, repair and improve an area
undercover	<i>adj</i>	if a police officer goes “undercover”, he/she dresses as an ordinary person in order to infiltrate a gang, etc
to take someone on	<i>exp</i>	to start a fight with someone
a drug-trafficking network	<i>n</i>	an organisation that distributes illegal drugs
due to	<i>exp</i>	because of
a gunshot	<i>n</i>	the noise made by someone firing a gun
a set	<i>n</i>	the area where a scene from a movie is filmed

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Answers to Fun Jokes:

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

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