



Welcome to the Answer English July English Class.

This month's class includes:

Fun Jokes to Match

Story Time Joke: Hair Today

Topic of the Month: Olympic Champions

Idiom of the Month: Get / put your house in order

Phrasal verb: Stop Over

News Article (Intermediate level): Australian Party Teen

News Article (Advanced level): Three Little Pigs

Fun Jokes to Match

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A - H).

1. What do you call a python with a great bedside manner?
2. Jane: What's the difference between Chinese food and Italian food?
Bob: With Chinese food, you're hungry after two hours. With Italian food, you're still...
3. Why did the raisin go out with the prune?
4. What kind of shoes do you make from banana skins?
5. Why do bananas wear after-sun lotion?
6. What is more useful after it is broken?
7. Boss: You missed work yesterday, didn't you?
8. Jim: How did you like your first day at work?
Mary: Going there was fine, and coming home was great too, but I'm not too keen on...

A: Slippers.

B: ...the time in-between.

C: An egg.

D: A snake charmer.

E: Because he couldn't find a date.

F: Because they peel.

G: Employee: Not very much!

H: eating after two hours.

To see if you matched the Fun Jokes correctly check the Answers at the End of the class.

Story Time Joke: Hair Today

A man goes into the hairdresser's. He only has three hairs on his head. The hairdresser says, "Good morning. How would you like it?"

And the man replies, "A side parting, please."

So, the hairdresser tries to give him a side parting, but it's impossible. "I'm sorry," says the hairdresser. "Could we try something else?"

"OK", says the man. "How about a middle parting?"

So, the hairdresser tries that, but it's still no good.

"I'm really, really sorry," says the hairdresser.

"Oh, don't worry," says the man. "Just leave it in a mess."

Topic of the Month: Olympic Champions

People to look out for in this year's Olympics

It comes once every four years. The Olympics set the stage for some of the most talented athletes in the world to step up and show their worth. Here are some names to look out for this year this year's games held in Beijing from 8th – 24th August 2008.

Usain Bolt, 21, Jamaica – sprinter (track and field)

This relatively unknown **sprinter** lived up to his name and created a new 100-metre world record in early June. The 21-year-old speedster is now the new favourite and hopes to **run away with** the Olympic gold medals in the 100 metres and 200 metres.

Spanish National Team – Basketball

This team of FIBA world champions is **undoubtedly** the best team in Europe and ranked second in the world. But they'll need to beat a powerful US team if they want to take Olympic Gold.

Tan Xue, 24, China – fencing

This fencer from China is ready for a fight. She was the women's silver medal winner at the Athens Olympic Games and is now the favourite for this year's gold.

Michael Phelps, 23, USA – swimming

Phelps **made a big splash** in the 2004 games in Athens. He won six gold medals at the 2004 Athens Olympics and could win that many – or more – in August at Beijing. If he does, he will hold the record for most gold medals in Olympic history.

Daniel Keatings, 18, Great Britain – gymnastics

In late May, he took the gold in the "World Stars" competition in Moscow. He participates in the all-around, team, parallel bars and pommels. Look for him **swinging into action** in August.

Ky Hurst, 27, Australia – open-water swimming

Ky Hurst is the only man to ever win 7 Australian "Ironman" titles. He's swimming in the men's 10 km marathon, appearing for the first time in these Olympics. Look out for his (and the sport's) **debut** on 21st August.

Ana Ivanovic, 20, Serbia – tennis

This Serbian **heartthrob** hopes to do well in her first Olympic appearance. She's ranked number 2 in women's tennis and number 1 in her country. Her face is already on a postage stamp there. Hopefully she can bring home the gold... and the mail!

Melanie Roach, 33, USA – weightlifting

Melanie Roach is the ultimate **comeback kid**. Eight years ago she missed the Sydney Olympics due to a back injury. Afterwards, she took time off to start a family, and then started training again three years ago after a surgery to correct the problem. If she wins the gold, it'll be a tremendous weight off her shoulders... in more ways than one.

Shawn Johnson, 16, USA – gymnastics

This young woman from Iowa is well on her way to being an Olympic champion. As the 2007 World All-Around Champion, as well as the 2007 US National All-Around Champion, she is the favourite to grab the gold in Beijing. She's a regular high school girl by day and a dedicated gymnast by night. A gold medal will certainly put a little **spring in her step**.

The Mascots: Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying and Nini.

OK, so they're not really athletes but expect to see these guys all over the Beijing games. Fuwa, as they're called, carry messages of peace and friendship to everyone all over the world. The mascots represent the Olympic Flame and China's most popular animals: the fish, the panda, the Tibetan antelope and the swallow. They also have rhyming two-syllable names, a traditional way of expressing affection for children in China: Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying and Nini. When you put their names together, Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni, it translates as "Welcome to Beijing!" Very clever!

a sprinter *n*

to run away with something *exp*

undoubtedly *adv*

to make a big splash *exp*

to swing into action *exp*

a debut *n*

a heartthrob *n*

a comeback kid *n*

a spring in your step *n*

a fast runner who runs short distances to "steal" something and run away; to take something

without a doubt; surely

to make a big impression. If you "splash" in the water, you cause a lot of water to fall out of the sea / pool, etc

to start doing something with energy and force the first time you appear somewhere or in a competition

an attractive person who is very popular

a person who returns to fight / participate again

if you have a "spring in your step" you walk quickly because you are happy

Idiom:



Get / put your house in order

To solve your own problems.

"Before you start criticising the way we do things here, you ought to put your own house in order."

Phrasal verb:



News Article (Intermediate level): Australian Party Teen

Australian party teenager turns pro

"It was the best party ever – that's what everyone's saying," said Corey Delaney, an Australian teenager. Last month, Delaney, 16, had a party when his parents were away. The party caused more than \$18,000 of damage. Five hundred teenagers went to the party at Delaney's home in Melbourne. Delaney's neighbours called the police because there was a lot of noise. The police came with dogs. But now, Delaney says he is going to be a professional party host. He even has a manager, Max Markson. "He did a great party in the wrong place. Now we're going to do a great party in the right place," Markson said. People have different opinions of Delaney: for some, he is a hero; for others, he is just an arrogant brat.

News Article (Advanced level): Three Little Pigs

Children's nursery rhyme is banned because it is "too offensive"

"Some people from religious minorities may find this rhyme offensive," said a UK government spokesperson after deciding that a story based on the children's tale The Three Little Pigs would not be included in a digital book re-telling the classic story. The government is afraid the story could offend some religious groups because "the use of pigs raises cultural issues" (pigs are considered unclean and are not eaten by people of some religions).

The book's creative director, Anne Curtis, said that the idea that including pigs in a story could be interpreted as racism was "like a slap in the face". She also said that banning such traditional stories would "close minds rather than open them" and questioned whether this meant that schools would have to stop teaching other children's stories that feature pigs such as Animal Farm.

The government have also attacked the CD-Rom digital version of the traditional story of the three little pigs, called Three Little Cowboy Builders, which is aimed at primary school children. The government warned that the story might "alienate parts of the workforce (the building trade)".

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