



Welcome to the Answer English June English Class.

This month's class includes:

Fun Jokes to Match

Story Time Joke: Ten again

Topic of the Month: Euro 2008 – the Low-down

Idiom of the Month: Get on like a house on fire

Phrasal verb: To take off

News Article (Intermediate level): Lazy Times

News Article (Advanced level): Childhood Genius

Fun Jokes to Match

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

1. What should you do if you find a snake in your bed?
2. I always wondered why babies spend so much time sucking their thumbs.
3. Waiter, there's a fly in my soup.
4. Waiter, my plate is wet.
5. Waiter is there soup on the menu.
6. Waiter, there's a button in my soup.
7. Customer: Waiter, this lobster has only got one claw.
Waiter: He must have been in a fight, sir.
8. What's on television tonight?

- A: Don't worry, sir. The spider in the bread will get it.
B: The same as always: a vase of flowers and a bowl of fruit.
C: Thank you, sir. I wondered what had happened to it.
D: Sleep in the wardrobe.
E: No sir, I wiped it all off.
F: Then I tasted baby food.
G: It's not wet sir, that's the soup
H: Customer: Well, bring me the winner.

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

Story Time Joke: Ten again

"What would you most like for your birthday?" a man asks his wife. She thinks for a minute then says, "I'd love to be ten again."

So, on the morning of her birthday, the man gets her up early and takes his wife to the local fun fair. He puts her on every ride in the park. Five hours later, he takes her to McDonald's, where he orders her a double Big Mac with French fries and a strawberry shake. Then, they go to a movie and see the latest Disney film, with lots of popcorn, Pepsi and sweets. What a fabulous adventure of a day.

Finally, he takes her home and they both collapse onto the bed. Just before sleeping, he leans over and says, "Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?" And the woman opens her eyes, sits up slowly and says, "You idiot! I meant dress size!"

Topic of the Month: Euro 2008 – the Low-down

Now that the major football league seasons are over, the next big soccer event is Euro 2008. World class teams like Spain, Germany, France and Italy will battle it out for the prize of international champions of Europe. England may not have qualified but here is the low-down on the competitors.

GROUP A

SWITZERLAND: The Swiss are a team that have come through as a strong international team in the last decade. They have qualified for most major tournaments in recent years and generally do quite well. They have a very tough group and their form has been up and down so they have their work cut out for them. As co-hosts they automatically qualified for the finals.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC: The Czechs are a strong international side but have been underachievers in major tournaments. When the country was part of Czechoslovakia they won the championship in 1976 against West Germany. They qualified comfortably for this tournament and are expected to do well.

PORTUGAL: As an international side the Portuguese have got stronger and stronger in recent years, finishing in fourth place in the 2006 World Cup Finals. Coach Luis Felipe Scolari has built a very formidable team with world-class performers. Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo is their star player with Deco, Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho joining him in the squad. Manager Scolari is confident of winning the championships.

TURKEY: The Turks have been mainstays of international football for some time now, and finished third in the 2002 World Cup. Despite this, they haven't qualified for a major tournament since 2003, when they were in the Confederations' Cup. They finished third in this competition. Their top scorer, Hakan Sükür, has scored 53 international goals, and they have an impressive midfield with players like Newcastle United's Emre and Stuttgart's Yildiray Bastürk.

GROUP B

AUSTRIA: This is the joint host's first time in the finals and Austria isn't known as a great footballing nation. Coach Josef Hickersberger has tried out a lot of young talent but their form hasn't been good. Nevertheless Hickersberger is confident that the team will do the nation proud.

CROATIA: This team from the former Yugoslavia is pretty strong but haven't performed very well in major tournaments in recent years despite qualifying for most of them. They finished third in the 1998 World Cup and are considered a very consistent team. Their top is extremely loud with red and white cheques.

GERMANY: The Germans are one of the great footballing nations, having won the World Cup three times and the European Championship three times, once as a united nation and twice as West Germany. German soccer fans expect very high standards from their team and they have a strong squad at the moment. Joachim Löw is the current manager and, under the last manager Jürgen Klinsmann, he had a very

strong say in team affairs. Their star striker is Lukas Podolski who scored eight goals in the qualifying rounds.

POLAND: Poland is a nation with the potential to have a strong football team but one which hasn't been very successful in international competitions. This is only the first time that they have qualified for the European Championship and their World Cup record isn't great. Their star player is Celtic's goalkeeper Artur Boruc, a highly-rated player throughout Europe.

GROUP C: THE GROUP OF DEATH

HOLLAND: The Dutch are one of the strongest footballing nations in the world and have a star-studded team. Man United goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Saar is joined by Liverpool's Dirk Kuyt, Chelsea's Arjen Robben and Celtic's Jan Venegoor of Hesselink. Their greatest team was probably their Euro '88 winning side which had the formidable forward trio of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten who is now the manager. Expect Ruud Van Nistelrooy to be one of the top goalscorers of the tournament.

ITALY: The winners of the last World Cup are expert defenders and their match with the French should be a lively affair after the last World Cup Final. Zinedine Zidane's headbutt on Marco Materazzi still hasn't been forgotten so expect fireworks in this game. The Italians have won four World Cups but, surprisingly have only won the European Championship once, in 1968.

ROMANIA: Romania has had strong sides from time to time and has reached the quarter finals of both the World Cup and the European Championships. They are seen as a bogeyman team and have the potential to cause a major upset.

FRANCE: The French are another major world football side but sometimes their form can be inconsistent. Occasionally they have either failed to qualify for major tournaments, or have been knocked out in the first round. On other occasions, especially when Zinedine Zidane was playing, they have won competitions in style. They have won the World Cup once and the European Championship twice.

GROUP D

GREECE: The reigning champions have only been in the European finals twice, winning it in 2004. Many people felt that the 2004 finals didn't have a high standard of football and this was why they thought Greece won it. Despite this, they had to beat the highly-ranked Portugal twice as well as footballing giants Spain and the Czech Republic. They are ranked eighth in the world so they might pull off the impossible again.

SWEDEN: The Swedes have a strong side and have usually performed well in international tournaments. Retired striker Henrik Larsson won the Goal of the Tournament at the 2004 European Championships after scoring a diving header against Bulgaria. They got third place in the 1994 World Cup Finals and are currently 24th in the FIFA World Rankings.

SPAIN: Spain is one of the best countries in the world for football and has a very strong, competitive domestic league. Despite this, their performances at major tournaments have been quite dismal apart from winning the European Championship in 1964. They have a very strong side at the moment with Fernando Torres, Cesc Fabregas and Xabi Alonso all on the squad. This may be Spain's year as success for the country is long overdue.

RUSSIA: The Russians are managed by journeyman Gus Hiddink at the moment, a very experienced and successful international coach. As a part of the USSR, they won the first European Championship but after the end of the Soviet Union they haven't been successful. They are currently ranked 30th in the world.

Idiom:



Get on like a house on fire

If two people "get on like a house on fire", they get on very well.
"I was worried that Pete and Sam weren't going to like one another, but they get on like a house on fire."

Phrasal verb:



News Article (Intermediate level): Lazy Times

An unusual museum opens to the public.

Are you always doing things? Or do you have a more relaxed lifestyle? If you are the more relaxed type, you might be interested in a new museum in Colombia's capital, Bogota. The museum is dedicated to laziness. Exhibits include sofas placed in front of

televisions, hammocks and beds, and lots of other things associated with doing nothing.

"The idea is to get people thinking about laziness and its opposite: extreme work," said Marcela Arrieta, the museum curator. The museum is proving to be very popular. "We always think about laziness as an enemy of work. So we wanted to explore that and make people think about the social issues implied in taking a nap, in being jobless or in feeling that maybe we are wasting time – so we want to ask ourselves about that," Marcela added. However, lazy visitors will have to get off the sofa quickly as the museum is only open for a couple of weeks.

News Article (Advanced level): Childhood Genius

New signs that you may have a genius for a child.

How can we recognise a child genius? Apparently, it's easy. Bernadette Tynan has identified six types of pupil whose talents may not be immediately noticeable. They are:

1. The Bossy Boots

This type of child loves to organise other children, and will do things such as telling other classmates where to sit. They are potentially future managers.

2. The Young Tycoon

This is the type pupil who at a very early age does things such as selling their sweets in order to make money. They could become a future business tycoons.

3. The Enquirer

This is the sort of student who asks a lot of questions non-stop. They are potentially future journalists or scientists.

4. The Constructor

This is the type of pupil who, when left alone for a few minutes, will build amazing things with Lego. This child is destined to be an architect or designer.

5. The Fairy Tale Teller

This pupil loves telling or writing stories. They could be the next JK Rowling.

6. The Turbo-Chatterbox

This type of child loves chatting in class. You can't stop them. They have an excellent verbal ability. We may see them in the future as a lawyer or on TV as an actor or actress.

Miss Tynan has recently been working on a television series called, *Make your Child Brilliant*. She believes that the culture of testing and exams is destroying creativity and innovation in the classroom, and argues that tests often fail to reveal many talents. And worse, some very bright children may even perform badly in tests because they over-complicate the answers, looking for a deeper meaning where it is not expected. "There is no such thing as an average Joe in my book," Miss Tynan explained. "Every child has something."

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