



Welcome to the Answer English May English Class.

This month's class includes:

Fun Jokes to Match

Story Time Joke: Starting Salary

Topic of the Month: Cricket

Idiom of the Month: Eat Someone Out of House and Home

Phrasal verb: Pull In

News Article (Intermediate level): Cat Attack

News Article (Advanced level): Catholic Britain

Film Review: The Other Boleyn Girl

Fun Jokes to Match

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

1. On which side do chickens have most feathers?
2. What kind of paper likes music?
3. What's white and goes up?
4. What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts?
5. Did you hear about the man who bought a paper shop?
6. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?
7. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?
8. Did you hear about the magic tractor?

A: It turned into a field.

B: Lost.

C: On the outside.

D: Annette ("a net").

E: I'm stuck on you.

F: A confused snowflake.

G: It blew away.

H: Wrapping paper.

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

Story Time Joke: Starting Salary

Sally has just finished university and she's in a job interview. After about half an hour, the interviewer asks one last question, "So, Sally, what starting salary were you hoping for?"

Sally thinks for a minute then says, "About 150,000 Euros a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer thinks for a second then says, "Well, what would you say to 8-weeks holiday, full medical and dental insurance, a company car, and a free cruise once a year?"

And Sally sits up and says, "Wow! Are you joking?"

And the interviewer replies, "Yeah, of course I am, but you started it."

Topic of the Month: Cricket

Learn all about cricket – England's summer sport. Complete the text. Use a word from below.

Bails, runs, stumps, bat, field, ball, players, teams

NB: Tip you may like to use the Internet to help you!

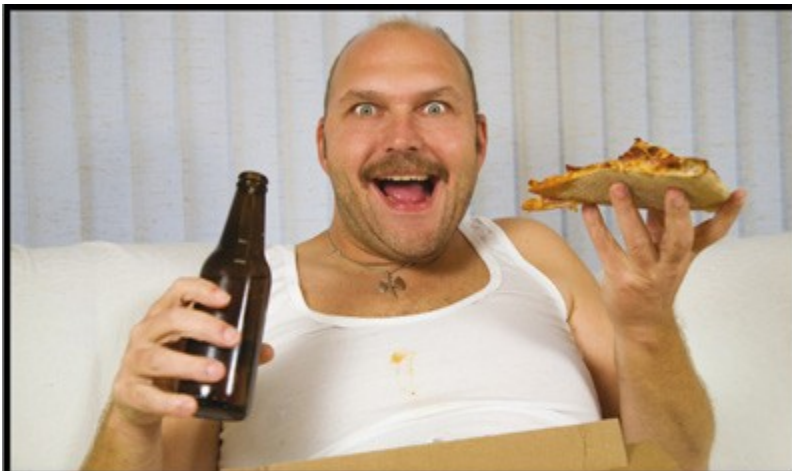
Cricket – how to play

Cricket is England's summer sport. The rules are very complicated. There are two (1) _____. And there are eleven (2) _____ in each team. You play the game on a grass (3) _____. At the centre of the field, there is an area called the pitch.

At each end of the pitch there are three wooden sticks called (4) _____. On top of the three stumps there are two small pieces of wood. These are called (5) _____. Both the stumps and the bails are called the wicket.

A player from one team bowls (throws) the (6) _____ to a player from another team. This player has a (7) _____. He or she must hit the ball. If the ball goes far, then the player runs between the wickets. Each run between the wickets is called a "run". The players in the field (the fielders) must try to catch the ball. The team that scores more (8) _____ wins.

Idiom:



Eat someone out of house and home

To eat most of the food that someone has in their house.

"Sam has only been back for three days, but he's already eaten us out of house and home."

Phrasal verb:



News Article (Intermediate level): Cat Attack

Postal workers afraid to work.

"I think Georgie only wants the letters; but sometimes, she bites the postman's fingers too," said Jane Goody, whose cat had attacked a number of postal workers. As a result of the attacks, Jane, 34, moved her post box to the end of her drive. Now the Royal Mail* (the British postal service) are demanding that more people move their post boxes away from the front door.

"We record about 5,000 animal attacks a year," said a spokesperson for the Royal Mail. "The vast majority being dogs but it's not uncommon for our postmen and women to be attacked by cats, birds and any other animal protecting its territory. Most pet owners are very responsible; and in this case Ms Goody has taken action to allow the postman to deliver letters without injury."

News Article (Advanced level): Catholic Britain

The changing face of Britain.

For centuries, it's been Britain's main religion. But now things are changing. A recent study shows that Catholics outnumber Anglicans in Britain for the first time. Estimates for church attendances in 2006 (based on previous years' figures) reveal 861,800 Catholics attended services every Sunday compared with 852,500 Anglican worshippers. Part of the reason for the increase is the large numbers of immigrants coming in from Catholic countries especially Poland. "

There's been a substantial number of Poles coming in and 85 per cent of them are Catholic so that's going to boost your numbers," said Tony Briars of the organisation Christian Research. In a related story, Tony Blair announced his recent conversion to Catholicism. The former prime minister was previously an Anglican. Many believe that Blair held off converting during his time in office for political and personal reasons: there has never been a Catholic prime minister and many of Labour's policies were opposed by Catholics, such as gay marriages and stem cell research.

Film Review: The Other Boleyn Girl

A new film set in the royal court of King Henry VIII in 16th Century England.

You've probably heard of King Henry VIII – he was the king of England who had six wives. You may also have heard of his second wife, who was called Anne Boleyn. She was beheaded in May 1536. But did you know that Anne had a sister called Mary who was the king's mistress?

A new film looks at the relationship between the two sisters, Anne and Mary, and Henry. It's called *The Other Boleyn Girl* and stars Natalie Portman as Anne, Scarlett Johansson as Mary, and Eric Bana as King Henry VIII. The film is based on the popular book of the same name, which is written by British author Philippa Gregory. In the story, Anne and Mary compete for the love of the handsome king.

The story begins in 1521. Both the Boleyn sisters are extremely beautiful. At just 13 years old, Mary is married to the wealthy courtier, Sir William Carey. However, Mary's life is changed forever when King Henry takes an interest in her. At that time, the king is married to his first wife, Queen Catherine of Aragon (Catalina de Aragón y Castilla), and Mary is one of her ladies-in-waiting. Mary is reluctant to have an affair but she gives in and becomes the king's mistress. Soon, Mary is pregnant with the king's child. However, while she is pregnant, her sister Anne seduces Henry and steals him away. Mary's heart is broken as, at this point, she has fallen in love with the king.

By 1527, the king decides he wants to divorce his wife, Catherine, and marry Anne. Mary is quietly ignored and becomes "the other Boleyn girl". Later, Mary is forced to become Anne's lady-in-waiting. Anne becomes obsessed with her ambition to become queen.

In 1532, Mary falls in love with a handsome servant, William Stafford. Mary and William marry in secret. A year later, Anne becomes queen. When she discovers that her sister, Mary, has secretly married a commoner and is pregnant with his child, she immediately sends Mary away from the court. At the same time, their brother George is in an unhappy marriage and is secretly having a homosexual affair.

Life soon becomes very difficult for Anne. The king desperately wants a son. But after Anne gives birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1533, Anne suffers two miscarriages. When Mary returns to the court in 1535, she begins to suspect that Anne and George are having an incestuous affair in order to help Anne conceive again.

Anne is arrested the following year, and so is George. George and his male lover are executed as Anne's supposed lovers. Mary is uncertain what to think – she knows that people are telling lies about her sister, but she is also afraid that they are telling the truth. Finally, Anne is executed on 19 May 1536. Mary, "the other Boleyn girl", lives out the rest of her life in peace with her common-born husband, William Stafford.

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