

## World Laughter Day

World Laughter Day is held on the first Sunday in May each year. It is "an annual event celebrated worldwide to raise awareness (*conscience*) about laughter and its many healing (*de guérison*) benefits."

What makes a joke funny? Do you think that different nationalities have different senses of humour? Why/why not?

Which of the following jokes do you find funny (if any)?

### Joke A

This man is at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door, but there's no one there.

Looking down he sees a snail (*escargot*). Disgusting! He picks up the snail and throws it away as far as he can.

Two years later there's another knock on the door. The man opens the door, and there's the snail.

The snail whines (*gémir*), 'What did you do that for?'

### Joke B

There are three men stranded (*en rade*) on a desert island. Buried in the sand they find a magic lamp. The first man rubs (*frotter*) the lamp to get the sand off it, and a genie appears! He offers the men one wish each.

The first man wishes to be safely home and, poof, he disappears.

The second man wishes the same thing. Poof, he disappears.

The third man sighs (*soupir*), 'I'm feeling lonely now, I wish my friends were back here.'

### Joke C

It's the football World Cup Final. A man sits down and notices that there's an empty seat between him and the next man.

He points this out to his neighbour who explains that it was his wife's seat. 'We always used to come and watch football together, but sadly, she died.'

'That's terrible,' says the first man, 'Couldn't you get another relative or a friend to come with you?'

'No,' says the man, 'they're all at the funeral.'

### Joke D

A woman is late for work. 'You should have been here at 8.45!' yells her boss.

'Why?' answers the woman, 'What happened?'

### Joke E

Two campers are walking through the woods when they suddenly see a huge, angry bear, right in front of them. Mary starts putting on her running shoes.

'What are you doing?', says Steve, 'You won't be able to run faster than that bear.'

'I don't need to run faster than the bear' she replies, 'I just need to run faster than you!'

**Match the verbs describing different ways of speaking with the definitions.**

blurt out		1. speak quietly using the breath and not the voice.
whine		2. say something quietly that is difficult to hear.
shriek		3. answer
reply		4. shout
sigh		5. cry out in surprise or shock
snap		6. say something suddenly and without thinking.
mutter		7. breathe out noisily because you are tired, or sad.
whisper		8. complain in an annoying way.
yell		9. suddenly get angry about something.

1. speak quietly using the breath and not the voice - whisper
2. say something quietly that is difficult to hear - mutter
3. answer - reply
4. shout - yell
5. cry out in surprise or shock - shriek
6. say something suddenly and without thinking - blurt out
7. breathe out noisily because you are tired, or sad - sigh
8. complain in an annoying way - whine
9. suddenly get angry about something - snap

**Complete the sentences using an appropriate verb from the list above**

1. 'Shhh! Be quiet in the library' he \_\_\_\_\_.
2. 'Ah! A spider!' he \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 'You look much older than I expected.' she \_\_\_\_\_.
4. 'It's not fair, you always do this.' he \_\_\_\_\_.
5. 'I'm exhausted.' she \_\_\_\_\_.

Suggested answers:

1. whispers/snaps
2. shrieks/yells
3. blurts out
4. whines/mutters
5. sighs

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/thats-hilarious>

## Other jokes

### *Joke F*

A doctor accidentally prescribes his patient a laxative instead of a coughing syrup.  
Three days later the patient comes for a check-up and the doctor asks: "Well? Are you still coughing?"  
The patient replies: "No. I'm afraid to."

### *Joke G*

An old grandma brings a bus driver a bag of peanuts (*cacahuètes*) every day.  
First the bus driver enjoyed the peanuts but after a week of eating them he asked: "Please granny, don't bring me peanuts anymore. Have them yourself".  
The granny answers: "You know, I don't have teeth anymore. I just prefer to suck (*sucer*) the chocolate around them."

### *Joke H*

Doctor: "I've found a great new drug that can help you with your sleeping problem."  
Patient: "Great, how often do I have to take it?"  
Doctor: "Every two hours."

### *Joke I*

A wife complains to her husband: "Just look at that couple down the road, how lovely they are. He keeps holding her hand, kissing her, holding the door for her, why can't you do the same?"  
The husband: "Are you mad? I hardly (*à peine*) know the woman!"

### *Joke J*

A man goes to a lawyer: "What is your fee (*honoraires*)?"  
The lawyer says: "1000 US dollars for 3 questions."  
Man: "Wow - so much! Isn't it a bit expensive?"  
Lawyer: "Yes. What is your third question?"