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Learn English Laughing

By Frank Gerace

Humor and Learning

Humor is important in learning a language. Not only does it enable the student to learn new vocabulary in context but it also is a motivating force. When a student understands a joke she begins to feel like she is in the world of the new language. Puns are especially valuable because they stress meaning. We'll give a few jokes and puns as examples and hope that they will move other teachers to use this powerful resource.

Puns

Laughing? Well, maybe not. Puns usually make people groan. They say that for a pun to be good, it has to be really bad. As a matter of fact, they are called "groaners". A pun is a little word game, playing with language. Most puns use a word that has two meanings, or use two words that sound almost the same.

Here are some puns. Use your knowledge of English, and your dictionary if necessary, to explain the pun.

Example: Why is an empty purse always the same? Because there is never any change in it. In this pun, the word "change" has two meanings: 1. coins and small bills, 2. alteration.

1. Do you know why it's easy for a hunter to find a leopard? Because a leopard is always spotted.

"to spot", verb: to see, to identify. "spotted", adjective: with spots.

2. When gambling became legal in the city, everyone agreed that the city was now a better place.

What we hear could be either of two words that sound the same: "better", adjective, "an improvement", therefore "an improved place". "bettor", noun, "gambler", "someone who bets", therefore entices "a place for gamblers".

3. The principal called the young cross-eyed teacher into his office. "I'm sorry to say, Ms. Jones, we're going to have to let you go." "But why, sir? I thought I was doing a good job." "It's simple," said the principal, "you can't control your pupils."

Of course, the word "pupil" could refer to a student or to the middle of the iris of the eye..

4. My friend Sam had decided his kitchen needed painting, and instead of hiring a professional, he decided to do it himself. In the afternoon, I went over to his house to see if he needed some help. When I arrived, I found Sam working hard painting the kitchen walls. But instead of wearing old clothes, he was wearing a leather jacket and a ski parka. I asked him why he was dressed that way on such a hot day. He brought me the paint bucket and told me to read the instructions. I did. It said, "For best results, put on two coats."

The pun is the word "coat" either another layer or paint or an article of clothing.

5. The previous pun about the extra "coat" reminds me of the dog that has a fur coat and pants.

OK, the dog has a fur coat but it doesn't have fur trousers. In this case "pants" o the way dogs breathe rapidly and noisily.

Those were puns. Now for a few jokes.

Jokes Three Police Jokes

First Joke: A police officer stops a woman for speeding and asks her very nicely if he could see her license.

She replies in a huff, "I wish you guys would get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you!"

Vocabulary and Expressions:

"in a huff": annoyed

"get your act together": get organized

Second Joke: While driving along the back roads of a small town, two truckers came to an overpass with a sign that read CLEARANCE 11'3".

They got out and measured their rig, which was 12'4".

"What do you think?" one asked the other.

The driver looked around carefully, then shifted into first. "Not a cop in sight. Let's take a chance!"

Vocabulary and Expressions:

"overpass": viaduct

"rig": here truck. Any specialized tool or mechanical arrangement.

"clearance": room to pass, or "clear". "Clearance" is the noun of the verb "to clear" which means (among other meanings) de: "go through without touching"

11' 3" is the abbreviation of 11 feet 3 inches;

12' 4" is the abbreviation of 12 feet 4 inches.

Third Joke:

Recently, a distraught wife went to the local police station, along with her next-door neighbor, to report that her husband was missing. The policeman asked for a description of the missing man.

The wife said, "He is 35 years old, 6 foot 2, has dark eyes, dark wavy hair, an athletic build, weighs 185 pounds, is soft-spoken, and is good to the children."

The next-door neighbor protested, "Your husband is 54 years old, 5 foot 6, chubby, weighs 275 pounds, is bald, has a big mouth, and is mean to your children."

The wife replied, "Yes, but who wants HIM back?"

Vocabulary and Expressions:

Hubby: popular form of "husband", spouse

distraught: stressed, very worried.

chubby: slightly fat

mean: In this context, strict, severe, even a little cruel

bald: no hair

next-door neighbor: the person who lives in the house to one side of yours

6 foot 4: six feet and 4 inches

How to keep on Learning by Laughing?

You can enter "esl puns" or "esl joke" in Google to find many sites that share our belief that puns and

jokes are good ways to help learners of English.

You can also find more help for Learners of English at:

<http://www.goodaccent.com/accentbooks.htm>

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<http://www.BooksLibros.com/SpanishForNinos.htm>

English speaking and foreigners

By Ransy Reynis

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Sins I am a foreigner and English is not my language I would like to tell you about how I write and read articles. When I write article I sometimes have to write them in Norwegian and translate them in to English even if Norwegian is not my language I have been living for so many years in Norway that speaking and writing in Norwegian all the time, has made it difficult for me writing in my own language. When I have finish writing article that I would like to post I always kopi the article and past it into program call Read Please so that I can hear it, because I understand English much better when I hear it then reading it and I some times have problems concentrate when I am reading. I always kopi interesting articles that I would like to read into the same program. Listening to it and reading it at the same time has help me learn English much faster. It also helps me concentrate better when I can hear it and read it at the same time. It is a lot of work writing first in Norwegian and then translates it into English but I love writing so I don't mind doing it. So if there are a lot of foreigners like me writing articles out there I recommend that you try this program it is totally free and it has help me learn speaking and writing English. I think this program can help English speaking persons too, especially if you have problems with concentration while you are reading. (This is not an advertisement for Read Please there are lot of others free programs like this that you can use) After I started using this program it has been much easier to concentrate reading article when I listen at the same time as I reed them. I hope this is of help to someone out there.

Thank you for reading this article Ransy Reynis

Ransy Reynis is an Independent Wealth Builder and a Webdesigner. Helping individuals earn career incomes from home.



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