

April Fools' Day

Today, let's talk about April Fools' Day. Known also as All Fools' Day it is celebrated on the morning of the 1st April when practical jokes and hoaxes are played on people. The victims are called April fools! Newspapers are fond of reporting fake stories, which are normally explained the next day.

April Fools' Day in the UK can be traced back to around 1392 to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The Nun's Priest's Tale mentions '*Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two*'. The passage was meant to mean 32 days after March – 2nd May – but was mistook for 32nd March i.e. 1st April.

Over the years in the UK there have been some classic April fool jokes played. For example, in 1957 the BBC TV programme Panorama broadcast a show showing Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti from spaghetti trees.

During the morning of the 1st April 1967, radio listeners in England could hear Radio East Anglia on 267 meters. The *new* radio station completely drowned out pop pirate giant Radio London on 266 meters. It was of course a total hoax by Radio London engineers on board the MV Galaxy radio ship offshore in the North Sea.

When I was a lad working on a farm, I did an April Fool on the farmer. I gave him a map and details of a new bypass and major road upgrade to run through the centre of his farm. He had lawyers on it, the lot. He nearly sacked me, but thankfully didn't. A year or so later his son told me his Dad still kept it in his bureau as a fond memory!

Later when I worked in a bank I did a prank on the tea lady – I sent her a form to join B.A.P.T.M. – the British Association of Professional Tea Makers. Everyone thought it hilarious - except her and the manager, who had me in the office!

Classic April Fool pranks include putting mustard in the toothpaste holder or in chocolate, placing cling film over the toilet, or putting a loud horn under a revolving office chair. Nice!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three April Fools. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) When is April Fools' Day?
- 2) Name three classic April Fools.
- 3) What does 'the pirate era' mean?
- 4) What does 'lad' mean?
- 5) Where did the author work as a lad?

Student B questions

- 1) What does B.A.P.T.M. mean?
- 2) Who was the B.A.P.T.M. aimed at?
- 3) What happened in the Nun's Priest's Tale?
- 4) What happened in 1967?
- 5) What happened in 1957?

Famous sayings:

- 1) There is no fool like *an old fool*, except a young fool!
- 2) Young men think *old* men are *fools*; but *old* men know young men are *fools*.

April Fools' Day – 25th March 2016

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about '**April Fool**' *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three April Fools from the article. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three April Fools of your own. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings to the class.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups of five. One of you is the interviewer. The four others are yourselves. You are in the Radio London studio. Today's interview is: *April Fools' Day jokes and hoaxes.*

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs – You are in a pub. Discuss April Fools' day hoaxes and practical jokes. *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

Classic newspaper, radio and television and online April Fools' Day pranks and hoaxes

Google it all if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

Prepare a 2 minute presentation on

April Fools' Day

or

The best April Fools' Day hoaxes

Google it if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What is the best April fool played on you by someone?
- 3) What is the best April fool hoax you played on someone?
- 4) What is the best April fool hoax you read in a newspaper?
- 5) What is the best April fool hoax you heard on the radio?
- 6) What is the best April hoax you saw on the television?
- 7) What is the best April fool hoax you saw on the internet?
- 8) Have you ever nearly lost your job by playing an April fool in the office?
- 9) What is the oldest April fool you know of?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you know any 'old fool' sayings?
- 3) Had you heard of the old fool sayings on page 1 before today's lesson?
- 4) Would you like to work on farm?
- 5) What things do you find hilarious?
- 6) Have you ever done a hoax or practical joke on a friend, partner or family member?
- 7) What is the best April fool done in your place of work/school by someone?
- 8) Have you read Chaucer's Canterbury Tales?
- 9) How many days in April are there?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

April Fools' Day

Today, let's talk about April Fools' Day. Known also as All Fools' Day it is celebrated on the morning of the 1st April when (1)___ jokes and (2)___ are played on people. The (3)___ are called April fools! Newspapers are fond of reporting (4)___ stories, which are normally explained the next day. April Fools' Day in the UK can be traced back to around 1392 to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The Nun's Priest's Tale mentions '*Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two*'. The passage was meant to mean 32 days after March – 2nd May – but was (5)___ for 32nd March i.e. 1st April. Over the years in the UK there have been some classic April fool (6)___ played. For example, in 1957 the BBC TV programme Panorama (7)___ a show showing Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti from (8)___ trees.

jokes / spaghetti / mistook / victims / hoaxes / practical / fake / broadcast

During the morning of the 1st April 1967, radio listeners in England could hear Radio East Anglia on 267 meters. The *new* radio station completely drowned out pop (1)___ giant Radio London on 266 meters. It was of course a total hoax by Radio London engineers on board the MV Galaxy radio ship offshore on the North Sea. When I was a (2)___ working on a farm, I did an April Fool on the farmer. I gave him a map and details of a new (3)___ and major road upgrade to run through the centre of his farm. He had lawyers on it, the lot. He nearly sacked me, but thankfully didn't. A year or so later his son told me his Dad still kept it in his (4)___ as a (5)___ memory! Later when I worked in a bank I did a prank on the tea lady – I sent her a form to join B.A.P.T.M. – the British Association of Professional Tea Makers. Everyone thought it (6)___ - except her and the manager, who had me in the office! Classic April Fool (7)___ include putting mustard in the toothpaste holder or in chocolate, placing (8)___ over the toilet, or putting a loud horn under a revolving office chair. Nice! **pranks / fond / hilarious / bypass / pirate / lad / bureau / cling film**

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

April Fools' Day

Today, let's talk about April Fools' Day. Known (1)___ as All Fools' Day it is celebrated on the morning of the 1st April (2)___ practical jokes and hoaxes are played on people. The victims are called April fools! Newspapers are fond of reporting fake stories, (3)___ are normally explained the next day. April Fools' Day in the UK can be traced back to around 1392 to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The Nun's Priest's Tale mentions '*Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two*'. The passage was meant to mean 32 days after March – 2nd May – (4)___ was mistook for 32nd March i.e. 1st April. (5)___ the years in the UK (6)___ have been (7)___ classic April fool jokes played. For example, in 1957 the BBC TV programme Panorama broadcast a show showing Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti (8)___ spaghetti trees.

from / over / when / which / some / there / also / but

During (1)___ morning of the 1st April 1967, radio listeners in England could hear Radio East Anglia on 267 meters. The *new* radio station completely drowned out pop pirate giant Radio London on 266 meters. It was of course a total hoax by Radio London engineers on board the MV Galaxy radio ship offshore on the North Sea. When I was a lad working on a farm, I did an April Fool on the farmer. I gave (2)___ a map and details of a new bypass and major road upgrade to run through the centre of (3)___ farm. He had lawyers on it, the lot. He nearly sacked me, but thankfully didn't. A year or so later his son told me his Dad still kept it in his bureau as a fond memory! Later when I worked (4)___ a bank (5)___ did a prank (6)___ the tea lady – I sent her a form to join B.A.P.T.M. – the British Association (7)___ Professional Tea Makers. Everyone thought it hilarious - except her and the manager, who had me in the office! Classic April Fool pranks include putting mustard in the toothpaste holder or in chocolate, placing cling film over the toilet, (8)___ putting a loud horn under a revolving office chair. Nice!

or / of / in / on / I / the / his / him

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

April Fools' Day

Today, let's talk about _____. Known also as All Fools' Day it is celebrated on the morning of the 1st April when practical _____ played on people. The victims are called April fools! Newspapers are fond of reporting fake stories, which are normally explained the next day. April Fools' Day in the UK can be traced back to around 1392 to Chaucer's _____. The Nun's Priest's Tale mentions 'Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two'. The passage was meant to mean 32 days after March – 2nd May – _____ 32nd March i.e. 1st April.

Over the years in the UK there have been some classic April fool jokes played. For example, in 1957 the BBC TV programme Panorama broadcast a show showing Swiss farmers picking _____ from spaghetti trees. During the morning of the 1st April 1967, radio listeners in England could hear _____ on 267 meters. The *new* radio station completely drowned out pop pirate giant Radio London on 266 meters. It was of course a total hoax by Radio London engineers on board the MV Galaxy radio ship offshore on the North Sea.

When I was a lad _____ did an April Fool on the farmer. I gave him a map and details of a new bypass and _____ to run through the centre of his farm. He had lawyers on it, the lot. He nearly sacked me, but thankfully didn't. A year or so later his son told me his Dad still kept it in his bureau as a fond memory! Later when I worked in a bank _____ tea lady – I sent her a form to join B.A.P.T.M. – the British Association of Professional Tea Makers. Everyone thought it hilarious - except her and the manager, who had me in the office! Classic April Fool pranks include putting mustard in the toothpaste holder or in chocolate, placing cling film over the toilet, or _____ under a revolving office chair. Nice!

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 classic April Fool jokes you can play on your friends, family and work colleagues! Talk about each of them. 3-5 minutes.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Classic April Fool jokes _____
- 2) When I was young _____
- 3) An April Fool _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *April Fools' Day*. Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *April Fools' Day*. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) known
- 2) hoaxes
- 3) jokes
- 4) priest
- 5) Canterbury
- 6) April
- 7) spaghetti
- 8) era
- 9) lad
- 10) farmer

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) prank
- 12) hilarious
- 13) mustard
- 14) toothpaste
- 15) chocolate
- 16) toilet
- 17) victims
- 18) fools
- 19) passage
- 20) through

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