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100 британських та американських жартів

Читаємо, дискутуємо і переказуємо
англійською мовою



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Пропонований посібник містить 100 анекдотів, різних за формою, обсягом та змістом. До кожного жарту подано словниковий коментар, що полегшує сприйняття тексту, та блок запитань і завдань, які сприяють розвиткові мовленнєвих та мисленнєвих здібностей.

Навчальний посібник адресовано школярам та студентам, усім, хто любить жарту і має почуття гумору.

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Передмова

Жарт, усмішка чи анекдот супроводжують нас у житті повсякчас. Жанр цей — особливий вид фольклору, бо твориться він народом і переходить з уст в уста, від покоління до покоління.

Побуває думка, що англійський гумор — достатньо витончений. Що ж, можливо. На нашу думку, гумор не має кордонів чи якихось особливих національних відмінностей. Адже усі ми — люди. І вади та хиби притаманні кожному з нас, незалежно від національної приналежності.

Пропонований посібник містить 100 анекдотів, різних за формою, обсягом та змістом. До кожного жарту подано словниковий коментар, що полегшує сприйняття тексту. Кожна усмішка супроводжується блоком запитань та завдань, котрі сприяють розвиткові мовленнєвих та мисленнєвих здібностей учня.

Навчальний посібник адресовано старшокласникам усіх типів середніх навчальних закладів — шкіл, ліцеїв, гімназій, учням училищ, технікумів, коледжів, а також усім, хто вивчає англійську мову самостійно чи з репетитором.

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PEOPLE

ЛЮДИ



A bachelor

Katherine: Hasn't Robert ever married?

Barbara: No. And I don't think he intends to, because he's studying for a bachelor's degree.

Vocabulary notes

bachelor — 1. неодружений; холостяк;
2. бакалавр (молодший вчений ступінь)
to intend — мати намір; збиратися;
syn. to be going to do smth.

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the episode?
2. Whom did Katherine and Barbara speak about?
3. Why wasn't Robert married, to Barbara's mind?
4. How is the humorous effect achieved in the joke?
5. Do you like the title of the story? What your own title would you suggest?
6. Give a written exposition of the joke, please.

Be careful!

Mistress: Be careful not to drop those china dishes, Norah.

Maid: Don't worry, ma'am. If they did fall they are too light to hurt my feet.

Vocabulary notes

china — порцеляновий; *syn.* porcelain;
ma'am — (*скор.* від *madam*) пані (звертання);
to hurt — забити, поранити.

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the dialogue?
2. What did the mistress ask her maid?
3. How did the maid understand her mistress?
4. What title of your own would you suggest to the joke?
5. Will you retell the text in indirect speech?

I am not afraid

— Matilda, when you wait on the table tonight, don't display any jewelry before my guests, please.

— Oh, I'm not afraid, ma'am.

Vocabulary notes

to wait on the table — прислужувати за столом,

також: to wait at the table,
to wait upon the table;

to display — показувати, *syn.:* to show;

jewelry — коштовності; ювелірні вироби.

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the story?
2. What did the mistress ask Matilda about?
3. Did Matilda understand her mistress?
4. Did Matilda say so on purpose?
5. What title of your own would you give to the joke?
6. Retell the text in indirect speech, please.

Your feet

— Darling, you would be a marvellous dancer but for two things.

— What are they, sweetheart?

— Your feet.

Vocabulary notes

marvellous — чудовий, дивовижний;

but for — якби не, коли б не;

sweetheart — коханий, любий, дорогий (у звертанні).

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the joke?
2. What pretension did the girl have to her beloved fellow?
3. Was her darling very glad to hear it?
4. What would you do if your partner happened to be a clumsy dancer?
5. Are you a marvellous dancer?
6. What title of your own would you give to the text?
7. Retell the joke in indirect speech, please.

In the absence of your grace

The Duke of Marlborough had an emu given to him. It was sent to Blenheim, and great interest was taken in the chances of its capacity for procreation in that country.

Eventually it laid an egg. The Duke and Duchess were away from home, so a telegram was sent to the latter by the agent to apprise her of the event. It was in these terms: “Emu has laid an egg. In the absence of Your Grace have put goose to sit on it.”

Vocabulary notes:

duke — герцог; duchess — герцогиня;
procreation — розмноження, *syn.* reproduction;
eventually — зрештою; *syn.* at last;
to apprise — повідомляти, *syn.* to inform;
term — вислів, слово;
Your Grace — Ваша милосте;
emu — ему (рід нелітаючих птахів, поширених в Австралії і Тасманії).

Questions and tasks

1. What did the Duke of Marlborough have?
2. Why was the emu sent to Blenheim?
3. What was the matter with the emu?
4. Where were the Duke and Duchess then?
5. What was sent to the Duchess?
6. What was the content of the telegram?
7. How is the comic effect achieved in the joke?
8. What title would you give to the text?
9. Retell the joke, please.

Shave my head

Mr Bush went into a barber's shop and asked the barber how much a haircut was.

“A pound”, said the barber.

“How much is a shave?” asked Mr Bush.

“Fifty pence”, answered the barber.

“Shave my head”, said Mr Bush.

Vocabulary notes

barber — перукар, barber's shop — перукарня;
haircut — стрижка;
to shave — голити (ся); shave — гоління.

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the episode?
2. Why did Mr Bush go to the barber's?
3. What was the cost of a haircut?
4. What was the cost of a shave?
5. Why did Mr Bush decide to have his head shaved?
6. How could you describe him as a person?
7. What title of your own would you suggest?
8. Would you retell the text?

I am not a swan

Lodger: Madam, this morning when I bathed I found only a nail-brush in the bathroom. I can't wash my back with a nail-brush.
Landlady: Well, you have a tongue in your head, haven't you?
Lodger: Yes, but I'm not a swan.

Vocabulary notes

lodger — пожилець; to lodge — наймати кімнату;
landlady — власниця помешкання, що здається внайми;
nail-brush — щіточка для нігтів;
swan — лебідь; to bathe — купатися.

Questions and tasks:

1. Who are the characters of the dialogue?
2. What did the lodger complain of?
3. What was the landlady's reaction?
4. Why did the lodger answer that he was not a swan?
5. What would you do if you were a lodger?
6. What would you do if you were a landlady?
7. What title of your own would you give to the joke?
8. Retell the text in indirect speech, please.

A gentleman

Ferguson was driving his girl through the park one hot summer night when they passed a pop-corn stand. “Yum”, said the girl. “That pop-corn smells good”.

“Wait a minute”, said Ferguson generously, “and I will drive up closer so you can get a better whiff of it”.

Vocabulary notes

pop-corn — кукурудзяні баранці;

stand — кіоск;

yum — *дитяче*: смачний;

generously — великодушно;

whiff — подув; слабкий запах.

Questions and tasks

1. Whom was Ferguson driving through the park one hot summer night?
2. Where did they pass?
3. What was the girl's excitement?
4. What did Ferguson promise her?
5. Do you consider Ferguson to be a gentleman?
6. Would you like to have such a boyfriend?
7. What your own title would you suggest to the joke?
8. Will you be so generous to retell the text?

Are you getting off?

Rex Stout, the whiskered creator of the detective “Hero Wolf”, was a passenger aboard a crowded Madison Avenue bus one day. An aggressive little man battled his way to Stout's side and unable to reach a strap, forthwith clutched a strand of the author's beard in a grip of iron.

Stout spluttered indignantly for a full block and finally demanded, “Will you kindly take your paws from my beard?”

“What's the matter, mister?” said the little man. “Are you getting off?”

whiskered — з баками і бородою;
 strap — ремінь (тут: в автобусі);
 forthwith — відразу, негайно, *syn.*: immediately;
 to clutch — схоплювати, *syn.*: to seize;
 strand — пасмо (волосся);
 grip — стискування; to grip — схоплювати, міцно тримати; *syn.*: to clutch, to seize;
 to splutter = to sputter — сичати;
 indignantly — обурено;
 block — група (*here*: bus).

Questions and tasks

1. What was Rex Stout?
2. Who battled the way to Stout's side?
3. What did the little man do?
4. What was Rex Stout's reaction?
5. Was the little man surprised?
6. What would you do if somebody clutched your beard in a grip of iron instead of reaching a bus strap?
7. Can you give a title of your own to the joke?
8. Will you be so nice to retell the text?

I will wire for them

The bore had outstayed his welcome and at the end of a fortnight his host thought of a sure way of getting rid of him.

“Don't you think your wife and family must be getting tired of being separated from you?” he asked the unwanted visitor.

“It never occurred to me”, replied the latter. “But now you put it so nicely, I will wire for them to come down and join us.”

Vocabulary notes

to outstay — перевершувати витривалість;
 to outstay smb's welcome — зловживати гостинністю;
 host — господар дому;
 to get rid of smb — позбутися когось;
 to occur to smb — спадати комусь на думку;
 to wire for smb — телеграфувати комусь;
 bore — нудна людина, зануда.

1. Who was outstayed his welcome?
2. What did the host think of?
3. What was the host's idea?
4. How did the guest accept the host's idea?
5. What would you do in this occasion if you were the host?
6. What your own title would you suggest to the joke?
7. Can you retell the text in indirect speech?

The biggest liar in Virginia

The man on the bridge addressed the solitary fisherman.

“Any luck?” he asked.

“Any luck!” was the answer. “Why, I got forty pikes out of here yeaterday”.

“Do you know who I am?”

“No”, said the fisherman.

“I'm the chief magistrate here and all this estate is mine.”

“And do you know who I am?” asked the fisherman quickly.

“No.”

“I'm the biggest liar in Virginia.”

Vocabulary notes

solitary — самотній, *syn.*: single;

pike — щука (*pl.* — pikes);

magistrate — суддя;

estate — маєток, земельне володіння;

liar — брехун, to lie (lied, lied) — брехати.

Questions and tasks

1. Who are the characters of the episode?
2. Was the fisherman a liar indeed?
3. What kind of man was he?
4. What title of your own would you give to the joke?
5. Retell the text in indirect speech, please.