

I. Match these idioms to the definitions below.

1. We didn't mean any harm. We were just joking around.
2. The alarm was no joke. There really was a fire.
3. Ha, Jack, this time the joke's on you.
4. Jim wanted to play a joke on the boss, but I thought it was a bad idea.
5. Our boss can't take a joke.
6. I can't wear that tonight. I'll be the laughing stock of the party.
7. A deep cut like that is no laughing matter.
8. I don't see why that is funny. It must be an inside joke.

- a) a joke only certain people understand
- b) something serious that you shouldn't laugh about
- c) be able to accept being made fun of
- d) do something to someone that makes people laugh at him
- e) not being serious, having fun
- f) very serious
- g) you are the person the joke is directed at
- h) someone everyone laughs at

II. Take turns reading these jokes in your group. Explain why the joke you read is funny.

- a- I asked my husband if he wanted to renew our vows. He got so excited. He thought they had expired.
- b- In Michigan, an 18 year old high school student was elected mayor ousting a 51 year old incumbent. An 18 year old replacing a 51 year old? In Beverly Hills that's called a second marriage.
- c- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- d- A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.
- e- Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.
- f- A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.
- g- Before you criticize someone you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
- h- Did you hear the Energizer bunny was arrested? Yes, he was charged with battery.
- i- I poured Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.

j- If at first you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you.

k- Why is it people say they sleep like babies when babies wake up every two hours.

l- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are dead?

m- If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?

III. Discuss these jokes. Are they funny? Are they appropriate to tell?

1. A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Wife wanted".

The next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."

2. Love is one long sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock.

3. When I was young I didn't like going to weddings.

My grandmother would tell me, "You're next"

However, she stopped doing that after I started saying the same thing to her at funerals.

4. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

An off-color joke is a joke that is in bad taste. In other words, it embarrasses people to hear it. It might have dirty words or be about a subject that people don't talk about in public. What should you do if someone tells an off-color joke in front of you?

IV. Riddles:

These are riddles. A riddle is a puzzle. See if you can answer these. The teachers have the answers. Explain why the riddle is funny.

1. What did the ocean say to the beach?

2. Why is the letter "T" like an island?

3. How can the letter "A" help a deaf lady?

4. What has many keys, but can't open any doors?

5. Who earns money driving their customers away?

6. What is the longest word in the English language?

7. Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

8. Why wasn't Cinderella a good soccer player?

9. What letter is a body of water?

10. What letter is part of the head?

11. Why did the man throw the butter out the window?

12. How do you keep cool at a football game?

13. Why did the football coach go to the bank?

14. Why should you never marry a tennis player?