

Pronunciation Practice-Read these tongue twisters as fast as you can.

1. Billy made some bitter batter out of bad butter.
2. Mary married a merry miner.
3. Peter piper picked a peck of peppers.
4. I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop.
5. How can a clam cram in a cream can.
6. Take down the ten tall tents before Ted gets tense.
7. There were fleas on Denise's fleece. The fleas on Denise's fleece made Denise sneeze.
8. That is a thick thicket of thorns and thistles.
9. Seth at Sainsbury's sells thick socks.
10. Sissy picked up six sick chicks.
11. That is a stupid superstition.
12. It is hard to sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock.
13. If Stu chews shoes, should Stu choose the shoes he chews?
14. Those thousand thinkers were thinking how did the other three thieves go through.

Reach each paragraph silently, then summarize the paragraph for the group. Let one person try to summarize it all. Other group members can add things that he or she might have left out.

--A truck was overloaded and turned over as it negotiated a tight turn. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The truck lay on its side obstructing both lanes of traffic. The police arrived, but there was nothing they could do. There was nowhere for the traffic to go. The road was narrow and there were steep ditches on both sides. The wrecker arrived, but it wasn't big enough to lift the truck. Eventually a truck with a crane arrived and lifted the truck back upright. Meanwhile, traffic had backed up for miles. It took hours to clear out.

--Nancy Lawlor collects bouquets--flowers from hotels and weddings and corporate events. Then she gives them away to people in need, often breaking down larger bouquets so there's more to go around. She calls her nonprofit organization Flower Power. She got started when noticing beautiful flowers that had been set up for a convention. She asked what would happen to the flowers when the convention was over. She was told they would go to the dumpster. She offered to take them. She made them into hundreds of small bouquets and delivered them to hospital patients. She loves to see the patients cheer up as she hands them a bouquet of beautiful flowers.

--A couple in California got a huge surprise last year while they were walking in their garden. They found over 1,000 gold coins under a tree. The coins are worth over \$10 million. They counted 1,427 coins. They were all in mint condition. The coins are from the period 1847 to 1894. Some of them are very rare and could be worth up to \$1 million each. The couple said they were walking their dog and they saw some rusty cans sticking out of the ground under an old oak tree. When they dug down, they were shocked at what they found.

--Britain will soon ban smoking in cars with children. Britain's government wants to reduce the harm cigarette smoke does to children. New laws will cut the chances of children passive smoking. This is when someone breathes in the smoke from a cigarette. Many studies say passive smoking can almost be as harmful as actually smoking a cigarette. The British government said it looked at research that found children who sat in smoke-filled cars had health problems. Britain's leader David Cameron said the problem is particularly bad in cars because there is so little space, so the car fills with smoke very quickly. The new law will make it illegal for anyone to smoke in a car that has a child in it.

Which of these stories appealed to you most?

Grammar Practice

Choose the correct ending. Some endings might be grammatically correct, but don't make as much sense. Discuss the best answer with your group.

- 1-I'm calling to ask David...
 - he wants to go to the ballgame
 - if he wants to go to the ballgame
 - does he want to go to the ballgame
- 2-I'm calling to tell you...
 - when will my plane arrive
 - whether arrive my plane
 - when my plane will arrive
- 3-Can I ask you
 - why you're leaving so early
 - why are you leaving so early
 - if you're leaving so early
- 4-I'm calling to tell you
 - where is the party
 - where the party is
 - whether the party is
- 5-I'm calling to tell you
 - can I come to your party
 - I can't come to your party
 - if I come to your party
- 6-Did you remember
 - how to pay the bills
 - to pay the bills
 - the payment of the bills
- 7-I reminded her
 - to not fill the tub to high
 - not to fill the tub to high
 - if she filled the tub to high
- 8-Her eyes are
 - same as your color
 - color the same as your
 - the same color as yours
- 9-I'm more tired today than
 - I used to be tired
 - used to be
 - I usually am
- 10-The water pipes
 - weren't hooked up correctly
 - were hooked correctly
 - were hooking up
- 11-If he comes
 - we would never go to lunch
 - we would go to lunch
 - we will go to lunch
- 12-I would buy a new car
 - if I have a lot of money
 - if I win the lottery
 - if I won lots of money