

What do you know about April Fool's Day? Read this article to find out what people do on this funny day!

## Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

## Preparation

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

### Vocabulary

1. ...f... a practical joke
2. .... jelly
3. .... a hero
4. .... a tradition
5. .... a penguin
6. .... the brain
7. .... a headband
8. .... a smell

### Definition

- a. a very brave person who people admire
- b. the organ inside your head that allows you to think
- c. something you notice through your nose
- d. a strip of plastic or material that you put around your head
- e. a soft, sweet, brightly coloured food with a fruit flavour
- f. ~~a joke that involves a physical action rather than words~~
- g. a black-and-white bird that can swim but not fly
- h. something people usually do at a special time, and have done for many years

## April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is celebrated on 1 April in many countries around the world. On this day, people play practical jokes on each other and have fun trying to make other people believe things that are not true.

### Jokes with your friends and family

In the UK and many other places, people play any kind of practical joke, but it's important to remember that the joke should be funny for everybody and not make the other person feel bad. Some jokes you can play include these.

- Make some fruit jelly in a glass. Then ask someone if they want some juice. Give them the glass and watch them try to drink it!
- Have you got a toy plastic spider? Put it in someone's shoe! Then, when they get scared, you can be the hero who takes the scary spider away!
- If you have a clock in your kitchen, get up early and change it to show it's one hour later. Then, when your family is having breakfast, they'll think that they're late for work or school!

Then shout 'April Fool!' so that everyone knows it was a joke!

In France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and French-speaking areas of Canada and Switzerland, the 1 April tradition is known as the 'April Fish'. A common joke is to try to stick a paper fish onto someone's back when that person isn't looking.

In many Spanish-speaking countries as well as the Philippines, there is also a special day for playing jokes, but it's in December instead of April.

### Jokes in the news

On April Fool's Day, there are often jokes in the news, on TV or on websites.

In 2008 the BBC made a short video which showed the 'news' that some penguins had learned to fly! Two big UK newspapers wrote about the 'important story' on their front pages.

One year in the UK, a children's news programme said that scientists had invented a 'Brain Band'. It was a coloured headband that you put on your head and it helped to make you more intelligent!

Another famous joke is 'Google Nose'. Google said it was a new app you could use to search the internet for a smell. For example, if you searched for 'flowers', you could click a button and smell them!

Of course, every day we need to think carefully about what we believe when we read or watch news and other stories, especially online. But on 1 April, be extra careful!

Happy April Fool's Day!

## Tasks

### Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

- |  |                                       |                             |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. April Fool's Day is on 1 April every year.  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. It's good if a joke makes the other person feel really bad.                         | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 3. The jelly joke is funny because you can drink juice, but you can't drink jelly!     | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 4. You should put real spiders in people's shoes.                                      | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. In some countries, like France, a common joke is putting a fish in someone's drink. | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. In other countries, like Spain, there's a day for jokes in December.                | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 7. One year, some newspapers said that pigs could fly.                                 | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 8. You should always think about whether things you see online are true.               | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |

### Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

smell	clock	spider	headband	fish	jelly
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- Put some jelly in a glass and ask someone to drink it!
- Put a plastic \_\_\_\_\_ in someone's shoe!
- Change the time on the \_\_\_\_\_ so that your family think they are late!
- Put a paper \_\_\_\_\_ on someone's back!
- Put a \_\_\_\_\_ on your head to make you more intelligent!
- Use an app to search the internet for a \_\_\_\_\_!

**Write and draw**

Can you think of a funny joke to play on someone? Write about it and draw a picture.

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## Answers

### Preparation task

1. f
2. e
3. a
4. h
5. g
6. b
7. d
8. c

### Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. True

### Task 2

1. jelly
2. spider
3. clock
4. fish
5. headband
6. smell