

Make Someone Smile - Jokes

The concept of what makes a good joke fascinates people so much there are even scientists who have studied it.

Activity One: Write your favourite joke below and explain why you like it.

Activity Two: An important part of a good joke is the delivery – this is what comedians call ‘telling the joke’. Even the funniest joke won’t make people laugh if it’s not told in a funny way. Tell these jokes to someone in your class. Think about your delivery. Use lots of expression in your voice. You might include a pause before the punchline (the bit that makes the joke funny). If you’re telling a joke that needs a response (such as a knock-knock joke), make sure you leave enough time. Some comedians make people laugh because they themselves laugh while telling the joke. Other comedians are funny because they tell jokes with a straight face.

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
A clock.

Why did the beach blush?
Because it saw the seaweed!

I’m so good at sleeping, I can do it with my eyes closed!

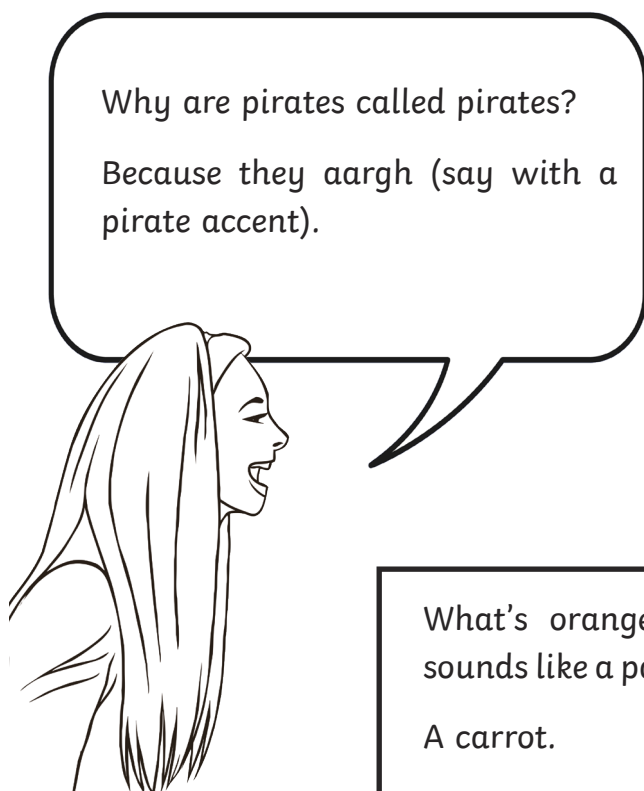
Why did the cow cross the road?
To get to the udder side!



Did you hear the one about the inflatable boy who went to an inflatable school which had an inflatable headteacher?

One day, the inflatable boy took a pin to school.

The headteacher said, “You’ve let me down, you’ve let the school down and worst of all you’ve let yourself down.”



Knock-knock. (Who's there?)
Granny. (Granny who?)
Knock-knock. (Who's there?)
Granny. (Granny who?)
Knock-knock. (Who's there?)
Granny (Granny who?)
Knock-knock. (Who's there?)
Aunt. (Aunt who?)
Aunt you glad Granny's gone?

What's orange and
sounds like a parrot?
A carrot.

What did one hat say to the other?
You stay here. I'll go on ahead.

Activity Three: Make up your own joke. It could be:

- a knock-knock one;
- a 'Why did the _____ cross the road?' joke;
- a 'Did you hear the one about the _____' joke;
- a joke that plays with words (like the sea and hat jokes).

Writing jokes can be tricky, so you could base it on a joke you already know but change it slightly. When you have written your joke, tell it to someone in your class. Can you make them laugh?