

**4И(Англ)**

**477**

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Книга содержит различного рода стихотворения, **шутки** в каламбуры на английском языке. Цель ее — выработка навыка беглости чтения и устной речи.

Трудные для понимания слова и выражения поясняются в комментариях. В конце книги имеется англо-русский словарь

Предназначается для студентов неязыковых гуманитарных вузов и факультетов.

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## ОТ СОСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ

Настоящая книга представляет собой сборник стихотворений, шуток, каламбуров, анекдотов на английском языке и является пособием для начального чтения.

В сборник включены отрывки из знаменитой английской книги для детей «Mother Goose»; стихотворения-груки (grooks) известного датского автора Пита Хейна, пишущего на английском языке и иллюстрирующего свои стихи; разнообразные шутки и каламбуры, построенные на игре слов, загадки. В сборник включена также небольшая глава, посвященная слэнгу»

Трудные для понимания слова и выражения, а также реалии поясняются в комментариях. В конце книги имеется англо-русский словарь, в котором даются слова в значениях, обусловленных контекстом.

Настоящий сборник предназначен для студентов неязыковых гуманитарных вузов и факультетов. Однако он может представить интерес для широкого круга лиц, изучающих английский язык на курсах, в кружках и самостоятельно.

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# Mother Goose Rhymes

Do you know Mother Goose?<sup>1</sup> You don't really know the English language if you don't know Mother Goose...

Hey diddle diddle,<sup>2</sup>  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon  
The little dog laughed  
To see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Who is Mother Goose? What is she? She is a merry old lady who recites jolly rhymes and sings songs full of delightful nonsense. Her rhymes are also often referred to as Nursery Rhymes. Every child in Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand..., in a word,<sup>3</sup> in all English-speaking countries knows her nursery rhymes by heart. Prominent statesmen, public figures often quote Mother Goose. Famous prose writers and poets allude to Mother Goose in their works.

Who was that old lady with the odd name? Did she really live? Where did she come from? Did she originally come from France or England? When did she live? Was she a real person or just a legend? Where did she live?..

No one knows for sure, but everyone knows and loves her rhymes and songs.

Kornei Chukovsky writes:

"СТИШКИ, ВХОДЯЩИЕ В «СТАРУХУ-ГУСЫНИЮ»... ПРОСЕИВАЛИСЬ ЧЕРЕЗ ТЫСЯЧИ СИТ, ПРЕЖДЕ ЧЕМ ИЗ НИХ ОБРАЗОВАЛСЯ ЕДИНСТВЕННЫЙ ВСЕНАРОДНЫЙ ПЕСЕННИК, БЕЗ КОТОРОГО НЕМЫСЛИМЫ ДЕТСКИЕ ГОДЫ АНГЛИЙСКИХ, ШОТЛАНДСКИХ, АВСТРАЛИЙСКИХ, КАНАДСКИХ ДЕТЕЙ." (От Двух до Пяти, М., «Советский писатель», 1960, с. 228)

Mother Goose appeared in England about two hundred years ago. Some of her rhymes are even older. "The Three Little Kittens" was known as far back as 400 years ago.<sup>4</sup> And "Three Wise Men of Gotham" was popular as far back as the XVI-th century. And today *Mother Goose Rhymes* are as popular as they were 200, 300 and 400 years ago.

Many countries have a village or district whose inhabitants are proverbial for a kind of wisdom which differs from that of their neighbours. England boasts of several such places.

For more than five hundred years, however, the merriest tales have been told about Gotham, where the villagers built a fence round the cuckoo so that they might keep her, and have summer all the year round. Yet the traveller who arrives at this village and inquires, "Is this the Gotham where the fools come from?" must be prepared for the reply, "No, sir, this is the Gotham that the fools come to."

Here's the nursery rhyme "Three Wise Men of Gotham":

#### ТРИ МУДРЕЦА

Three wise men of Gotham	Три мудреца в одном тазу
Went to sea in a bowl.	Пустились по морю в грозу.
If the bowl had been stronger	Будь попрочнее
My song had been longer.	Старый таз,
	Длиннее
	Был бы мой рассказ.
	<i>(Перевод С. Маршака)</i>

Many authors have parodied Mother Goose Rhymes. Most famous are parodies by Lewis Carroll in "Alice in Wonderland"<sup>8</sup> and the poet Edward Lear.<sup>6</sup>

Edward Lear, creator of the limerick,<sup>7</sup> parodied "Three Wise Men of Gotham" in "The Jumblies":<sup>8</sup>

They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,  
In a Sieve they went to sea:  
In spite of all their friends could say,  
On a winter's morn,<sup>9</sup> on a stormy day,  
In a Sieve they went to sea!  
And when the Sieve turned round and round,  
And everyone cried, "You'll all be drowned!"

They called aloud, "Our Sieve ain't big"<sup>10</sup>  
But we don't care a button! we don't care a fig  
In a Sieve we'll go to seal"  
Far and few, far and few,  
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;  
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,  
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

(extract)

The Soviet writer Demurova writes about Mother Goose rhymes:

"Многие поколения англичан, а позднее и американцев воспитывались на этих стихах; традиции детского фольклора и в наши дни необычайно сильны — они одухотворяют и пронизывают неповторимым юмором творчество любимых поэтов Англии и США".

(Хрестоматия по английской  
и американской детской литературе.  
М.-Л., «Просвещение», 1965, с. 19)

"...For centuries each generation has been linked to the next by the shared laughter of nursery rhymes... A book of nursery rhymes is a sparkling treasury of memorable verses," write the publishers in their note to "The Puffin Book of Nursery Rhymes" compiled by Iona and Peter Opie.<sup>11</sup>

"Oral rhymes have had to be wonderfully fit to have survived...<sup>12</sup> If the test of a poet is the frequency and diversity of the occasions on which we remember his poetry, then Mother Goose deserves a monument in Westminster Abbey,<sup>13</sup> and a good nursery rhyme book should be every poet's primer," say Iona and Peter Opie.

As Iona and Peter Opie note, the rhyme "Hey diddle diddle" makes no more sense in Russian than in English. "But it is nice to think," they continue, "that a rhyme that amazes English and American children has been translated, and also pleases Russian babes. In fact English nursery rhymes *en masse*<sup>14</sup> seem to appeal to the children of Russia. Colourfully illustrated collections have been published in Moscow, and translations have been made by poets as eminent as Samuel Marshak and Korney Chukovsky."

Here are the translations of the famous nursery rhyme "Hey diddle diddle" by Marshak and Khazanov.



He hobbled with a stick for a whole crooked mile  
And found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile.

He ran to the shop then — a-tinkle went the bell.  
"Good morning to you, missus, and what do you sell?"  
"I've candy and a barrow and a black silk hat."  
"None of those, thank you, I'll buy a crooked cat."

He bought a crooked cat and it caught a crooked  
mouse  
Pitter-patter down the gutter of an old farm-house.  
"Be friends with me, mousie, there's no harm meant,  
For we're all of us crooked here, but me, and I'm  
bent."

They jogged alone together but they couldn't keep in  
step.  
"Right turn!" said the crooked man — they turned to  
the left.  
But he brought them at last to a little crooked  
house,  
And he lived there for ever with the pussy and the  
mouse.

The title of the Australian film about a little girl who became a concert pianist "Wherever she goes" is also a quotation from Mother Goose. Here is the rhyme:

#### RIDE A COCK-HORSE

Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross,<sup>16</sup>  
To see a fine lady upon a white horse;  
Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,  
And she shall have music wherever she goes.

The first text that Thomas Edison<sup>17</sup> recited on his newly-invented phonograph was the nursery rhyme "Mary had a Little Lamb", one of Mother Goose's most beloved rhymes. Here it is:

Mary had a little lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow;  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day,  
That was against the rule;  
It made the children laugh and play  
To see a lamb at school.

The well-known American public figure and Lenin Peace Prize winner, Cyrus Eaton,<sup>18</sup> wrote in an article published in the Soviet weekly *New Times*, referring to the war-mongers, "Some like it hot, and some like it cold... but I don't like it at all." This was a paraphrase of the Mother Goose rhyme "Pease Porridge":<sup>19</sup>

Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold,  
Pease porridge in the pot, nine days old.  
Some like it hot, some like it cold,  
Some like it in the pot, nine days old:

The well-known Mother Goose rhyme "This is the House that Jack Built" was parodied on the occasion of Neils Bohr's birthday.<sup>20</sup>

#### THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

##### *Mother Goose Rhyme*

This is the house that Jack built.  
This is the malt that lay in the house that Jack  
built.

This is the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat  
That ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cow with crumpled horn,  
That tossed the dog, that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat, that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat, that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the man all tattered and torn,  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn,  
That tossed the dog, that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat, that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the priest all shaven and shorn,  
That married the man all tattered and torn,  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,  
That milked the cow with crumpled horn,  
That tossed the dog, that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat, that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cock that crowed in the morn,  
That waked the priest all shaven and shorn,  
That married the man all tattered and torn,  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,  
That milked the cow with crumpled horn.  
That tossed the dog, that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat, that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the farmer sowing his corn,  
That kept the cock that crowed in the morn,  
That waked the priest all shaven and shorn,  
That married the man all tattered and torn,  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,  
That milked the cow with crumpled horn,  
That tossed the dog, that worried the cat,  
That killed the rat that ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

### **ДОМ, КОТОРЫЙ ПОСТРОИЛ ДЖЕК**

Вот дом,  
Который построил Джек.

А вот пшеница,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

А это веселая птица-синица,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

Вот кот,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

Вот пес без хвоста,  
Который за шиворот треплет кота,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится,  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

А это корова безрогая,  
Лягнувшая старого пса без хвоста,  
Который за шиворот треплет кота,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

А это старушка, седая и строгая,  
Которая доит корову безрогую,  
Лягнувшую старого пса без хвоста,  
Который за шиворот треплет кота,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится,  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

А это ленивый и толстый пастух,  
Который бранится с коровницей строгою,  
Которая доит корову безрогую,  
Лягнувшую старого пса без хвоста,

Который за шиворот треплет кота,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится,  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек.

Вот два петуха,  
Которые будят того пастуха,  
Который бранится с коровницей строгою,  
Которая доит корову безрогую,  
Лягнувшую старого пса без хвоста,  
Который за шиворот треплет кота,  
Который пугает и ловит синицу,  
Которая часто ворует пшеницу,  
Которая в темном чулане хранится,  
В доме,  
Который построил Джек!

*(Перевод С. Маршака)*

#### THE ATOM THAT BOHR BUILT

*(with apologies to Jack)*

This is the atom that Bohr built.  
This is the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

This is the drop that looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

These are the compound levels galore  
That make up the spectrum  
That's due to the modes  
That belong to the drop  
That looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

This is the shell and this is the core  
That possesses the compound levels galore  
That make up the spectrum  
That's due to the modes

That belong to the drop  
That looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

This is the correspondence (as Bohr said before)  
That holds in the shell, as well as the core  
That possesses the compound levels galore  
That make up the spectrum  
That's due to the modes  
That belong to the drop  
That looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

This is the complementarity law  
That gives correspondence (as Bohr said before)  
That holds in the shell, as well as the core  
That possesses the compound levels galore  
That make up the spectrum  
That's due to the modes  
That belong to the drop  
That looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

This is the day we celebrate Bohr  
Who gave us the complementarity law  
That gives correspondence (as Bohr said before)  
That holds in the shell, as well as the core  
That possesses the compound levels galore  
That make up the spectrum  
That's due to the modes  
That belong to the drop  
That looks like the nucleus  
That sits in the atom  
That Bohr built.

#### АТОМ, КОТОРЫЙ ПОСТРОИЛ БОР

Вот атом, который построил Бор,  
Это — протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

А вот электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

Вот мю-мезон.  
Который распался на электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

А вот пи-мезон,  
Который, распавшись, дал мю-мезон,  
Который распался на электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

Вот быстрый протон,  
Который в ударе родил пи-мезон,  
Который, распавшись, дал мю-мезон,  
Который распался на электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

А вот беватрон,  
В котором ускорился тот протон,  
Который в ударе родил пи-мезон,  
Который, распавшись, дал мю-мезон,  
Который распался на электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который построил Бор.

А вот дополнительность.  
Это закон,  
Который Бором провозглашен.  
Закон всех народов,  
Закон всех времен,

Успешно описывающий с двух сторон  
Не только протон  
И электрон,  
Но также нейтрон,  
Фотон,  
Позитрон,  
Фонон,  
Магنون,  
Эксион,  
Полярон,  
Бетатрон,  
Синхротрон,  
Фазотрон,  
Циклотрон,  
Циклон,  
Цейлон,  
Нейлон,  
Перлон,  
Одеколон,  
Декамерон.  
И, несомненно, каждый нейтрон  
Мозга, которым изобретен  
Тот замечательный беватрон,  
В котором ускорился тот протон.  
Который в ударе родил пи-мезон,  
Который, распавшись, дал мю-мезон,  
Который распался на электрон,  
Который стремглав облетает протон,  
Который в центр помещен  
Атома,  
который также построил  
Нильс Бор!

*(Из книги «Физики продолжают шутить».  
Сборник переводов. Издательство «Мир».  
Москва, 1968)*

An article in *New Scientist*<sup>21</sup> on the principal plant hormones was headed: "How Does Your Garden Grow?" This is an allusion to the Mother Goose rhyme "Mary, Mary, quite contrary":<sup>22</sup>

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockle shells  
And pretty maids all in a row.

Much later Father Goose rhymes for advanced children appeared.

#### AGRICULTURE?

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
What makes your garden grow?  
"Insecticides<sup>23</sup>  
And fungicides<sup>24</sup>  
And NH<sub>4</sub>HO."<sup>25</sup>

*Mother Goose rhymes  
for little children-*

*Father Goose rhymes  
for advanced children*

#### SAFETY FIRST

Jack and Jill went up the  
hill  
To fetch a pail of water;  
Jack fell down and broke  
his crown  
And Jill came tumbling  
after.

Today's Jacks and Jills  
Think that climbing up hills  
To fetch pails of water is  
tripe.  
No one falls down  
And injures his crown  
When the stuff is transported  
by pipe.

#### RECIPROCITY

Peter, Peter, pumkin eater.  
Had a wife and couldn't  
keep her;  
He put her in a pumkin  
shell,  
And there he kept her very  
well.

Peter, Peter, pumkin eater,  
Had a wife and couldn't  
keep her.  
Living costs were getting  
steeper  
That's why Peter  
couldn't keep her  
But Peter's wife was not  
a slob;  
She wouldn't let hard times  
defeat her.  
She scrounged around and  
found a job  
And now the wife is keeping  
Peter.



# Grooks

Piet Hein is probably the most quoted man in Scandinavia. His grooks (in Danish: gruk, a name of his own invention) are short aphoristic poems, witty and wise and warmly human, often wonderfully many-faceted, revealing new perspectives almost from one word to the next.

Piet Hein began writing them during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. They were a kind of underground literature. Piet Hein was the president of the anti-nazi union "Kulturkampen" when the Nazis invaded Denmark and Norway. Soon becoming effective weapons of the resistance, they enabled Danes to talk to one another about what really mattered in a range just beyond German understanding. This play of multiple meanings survives in his later grooks.

Grook-writing is just one dimension of Piet Hein's creative life. He has published longer poems, fiction, and essays; patented several technical inventions; painted pictures; and built mobiles. He worked with Niels Bohr and served as his "mental ping-pong partner". And all grew out of the same urge, by the same process. How to explain the creative process? Says Hein: "The creative process is the same in all fields. The creative process is in formulating the problem. Once that is done in the right way, the problem is solved." The same idea is expressed in his grooks:

## PROBLEMS

Problems worthy  
of attack  
prove their worth  
by hitting back.

В задачах тех  
ищи удачи,  
где получить  
рискуешь сдачи.  
*(Перевод И. Михайлова)*

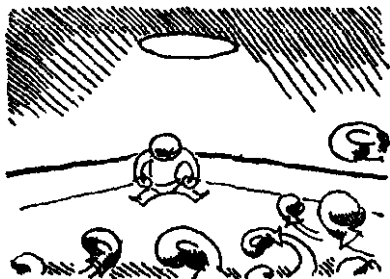
One of the important things for the foreign student of the English language is to be sure that he is reading real English, good English. In this connection we would like to quote Sir Norbert Wiener<sup>1</sup> who, says: "Piet Hein is a master of the epigram. He must be read on at least two levels. I admire his work both on the more superficial and on the deeper level. What a wealth of significant thought it contains. His mastery of English is remarkable."

So you see, Piet Hein's English is top grade!

The grooks have been translated into many languages, among which are Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, French, German, Russian, Persian, Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese and Esperanto.

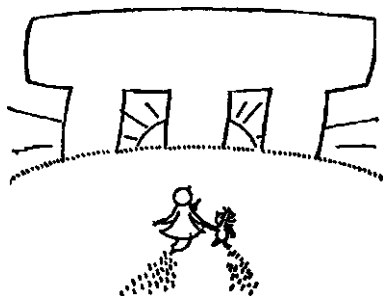
In this booklet you will find only 35 grooks out of about 7000 grooks Piet Hein wrote in Danish. Most of the translations into Russian were made by H. Vardenga. Thanks to his efforts the Russian readers have been able to make the acquaintance of Hein's grooks. Only 21 of the 35 are given with their translations. The reader, if so inclined, can have a go at the others. Or maybe the translations can be improved on?

Here is another translation of the grook "Problems" made by Vardenga.



#### О ЗАДАЧАХ

Лишь те задачи  
достойны схватки,  
которых никто  
не клал на лопатки.



**T. T. T.**

Put up in a place  
where it's, easy to see  
the cryptic admonishment

**T. T. T.**

When you feel how depressingly  
slow you climb,  
it's well to remember that  
Things Take Time.

**V. T. V.**

Мудрость простейших истин признав,  
повесь на стену себе  
знак сокровенный, таинственный  
знак

**V. T. V.**

И если к вершине долгий путь  
стал непосильным бременем —  
вспомни, прежде чем повернуть:  
Все Требует Времени.

**MANKIND**

Men, said the Devil,  
are good to their brothers:  
they don't want to mend  
their own ways, but each other's.

## ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКАЯ ДОБРОТА

Молвил дьявол: "Люди, как я  
погляжу,  
Всех добрее среди всего живого.  
Забыв про бревно в своем глазу,  
Соломинку ищут в глазу другого."

## LAST THINGS FIRST

Solutions to problems  
are easy to find:  
The problem's a great  
contribution.  
What is truly an art  
is to wring from your mind  
a problem to fit  
a solution.

## НАЧИНАЯ С КОНЦА

В решеньи задачи,  
по общему мнению, —  
вся соль.  
Но я полагаю иначе;  
искусство в том,  
чтобы, зная решенье,  
найти  
подходящую задачу.

## WHO IS LEARNED?

### *A definition*

One who, consuming midnight oil  
in studies diligent and slow,  
teaches himself, with painful toil,  
the things that other people know.

## КТО ТАКОЙ УЧЕНЫЙ?

### *(Определение)*

Тот, кто ночами,  
забыв про кровать,

усердно роется  
в книжной груди,  
чтобы еще кое-что узнать  
из того,  
что знают другие люди.

#### **CANDLE WISDOM**

If you knew  
what you will know  
when your candle  
has burnt low,  
it would greatly  
ease your plight  
while your candle  
still burns bright.

#### **ПРИ СВЕЧЕ**

Когда бы мы  
могли начать  
С печальной  
мудрости огарка,  
как помогла бы нам  
свеча,  
когда она  
горела ярко.

#### **OMNISCIENCE**

Knowing what  
thou knowest not  
is in a sense  
omniscience.

#### **ВСЕЗНАНИЕ**

Знать, где предел твоих  
знаний проложен  
и что за пределом этим, —  
пожалуй, единственно возможное  
всезнание на свете.



## THE ROAD TO WISDOM?

The road to wisdom? — Well, it's plain and simple to express:

Err  
and err  
and err again  
but less  
and less  
and less.

*Дорога к мудрости  
длинна, но проста  
— все меньше ошибок,  
которые нет  
конца*

## ПУТЬ К МУДРОСТИ

К мудрости путь — по ухабам ошибок;  
иди же и носа не вешай:

ушибы, ушибы  
и снова ушибы,  
но реже,  
и реже,  
и реже.



## THE CASE FOR OBSCURITY

On thoughts and words

If no thought  
your mind does visit,  
make your speech  
not too explicit.

## ПОВОД ГОВОРИТЬ ТУМАННО

О мыслях и словах

Если в голову мысли  
приходят не часто,  
не делай речь свою  
слишком ясной.

*(Перевод И. Михайлова)*

## ARS BREVIS

There is  
one art,  
no more,  
no less:  
to do  
all things  
with art —  
lessness.

Во всяком деле  
искусство в одном —  
Так сделай,  
чтоб не было видно оно.

*(Перевод И. Михайлова)*

## THE ETERNAL TWINS

Taking fun  
as simply fun  
and earnestness  
in earnest  
shows how thoroughly  
thou none  
of the two  
discernest.

## НЕРАЗЛУЧНЫЕ БЛИЗНЕЦЫ

Если только за шутку  
принял ты шутку,  
а серьезное —  
слишком всерьез,

значит, не знаешь,  
что и минутку  
они не проводят  
врозь.

### CONSOLATION GROOK

Losing one glove  
is certainly painful,  
but nothing  
    compared to the pain  
of losing one,  
throwing away the other,  
and finding  
    the first one again.

### УТЕШИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ГРУК

Обидно, конечно,  
перчатку посеять.  
Но много обидней,  
    наверное,  
одну потеряв,  
бросить к черту другую  
и тут же наткнуться  
    на первую.

### CIRCUMSCRIPTURE

As Pastor X. steps out of bed  
    he slips a neat disguise on:  
that halo round his priestly head  
    is really his horizon.

### КРУГОЗОП

Вот пастор по святым делам  
идет, потупив взор,  
и замкнут нимбом вокруг чела  
святейший кругозор.

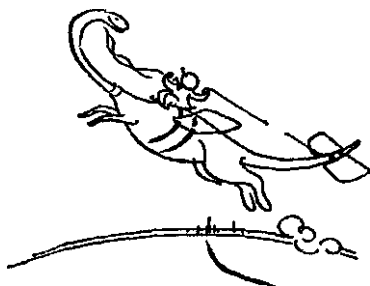
*(Перевод Я- Смородинского)*

## ATOMYRIADES

Nature, it seems, is the popular name  
for milliards and milliards and milliards  
of particles playing their infinite game  
of billiards and billiards and billiards.

## АТОМИРИАДЫ

Природой привыкли мы называть  
Миллиарды, миллиарды, миллиарды  
Частиц, не устающих играть  
В мириады миллиардных бильярдных.



## GROOK. TO STIMULATE GRATITUDE IN SOUR RATIONALISTS

As things so  
very often are  
intelligence  
won't get you far.

So be glad  
you've got more sense  
than you've got  
intelligence.

## ГРУК, РАССЧИТАННЫЙ НА ЧУВСТВО БЛАГОДАРНОСТИ СО СТОРОНЫ МРАЧНЫХ РАЦИОНАЛИСТОВ

Увы, не часто  
до цели исканий  
довозит нас  
ракета знаний.

Доедешь верней  
и достаточно быстро  
на динозавре  
здорового смысла.

I'D LIKE —

I'd like fo know  
what this whole show  
is all about  
before it's out.

ХОТЕЛ БЫ...

Хотел бы знать,  
постичь,  
понять,  
успеть составить мнение,  
пока не кончили давать  
всё это представление.

THAT IS THE QUESTION

*Hamlet Anno Dominy*

Co-existence  
or no existence.

ВОТ В ЧЕМ ВОПРОС

*По Гамлету*

Сосуществовать  
или не существовать.

ADDRESS TO MY BELOVED

Some girls I worship from afar  
to passionate excess.  
But when I meet them face to face  
I love them rather less.

Some other girls I love afresh  
each time I meet again.  
It's not until they're out of sight  
that love begins to wane.  
But you alone, my love, I love  
wherever you may be.  
So you can stay, or go away, —  
It's all the same to me.

#### ПОСЛАНИЕ МОЕЙ ЛЮБИМОЙ

Есть женщины — я без ума  
их издали любил.  
Но рядом с ними был весьма  
умеренным мой пыл.

В других влюбляюсь каждый раз,  
когда встречаюсь вновь.  
Но не успеют скрыться с глаз. —  
кончается любовь.

И лишь тебя, где б ни была,  
любить мне суждено.  
Со мной ли ты, или ушла —  
мне это все равно.



#### ORIGINALITY

Original thought  
is a straightforward process.  
It's easy enough  
when you know what to do.  
You simply combine  
in appropriate doses  
the blatantly false  
and the patently true.

## КАК СОЗДАВАТЬ ИДЕИ

Создание новых идей —  
операция,  
доступная всем  
и довольно несложная: —  
достаточно знать,  
в каких концентрациях  
мешать очевидное  
и невозможное.

## GROOK ON LONG-WINDED AUTHORS

Long-winded \* writers I abhor,  
and glib, prolific chatters \*\*;  
give me the ones who tear and gnaw  
their hair and pens to tatters \*\*\*:  
who find their writing such a chore  
they only write what matters \*\*\*\*.

- \* long-winded—многословный
- \*\* glib, prolific chatters—бойкие на язык и болтливые люди
- \*\*\* tear and gnaw ... to tatters—рвать и грызть в клочья
- \*\*\*\* what matters—то, что важно



## LIVING IS —

Living is  
a thing you do  
now or never —  
which do you?

## MY FAITH IN DOCTORS

My faith in doctors  
is immense.  
Just one thing spoils it:  
their pretence  
of authorised  
omniscience \*.

\* their pretence [pri'tens] of authorised omniscience ['ɔ:θərəɪzd  
ɒm'nɪstəns] — их притязания на всезнание



## REMEDIES' REMEDIES»

Pills are useful  
against ills  
and against  
too many pills.

## THE PARADOX OF LIFE

*Philosophical grook*

A bit beyond perception's reach <sup>3</sup>  
I sometimes believe I see  
that Life is two locked boxes, each  
containing the other's key.

## WANTING TO BE ABLE TO

'Impossibilities' are good  
not to attach that label to \*;  
since, correctly understood,  
if we wanted to, we would  
be able to be able to \*\*.

\* 'Impossibilities' are good  
not to attach that label to — На "невозможности" лучше не  
вешать этого ярлыка

\*\* we would be able to be able to — мы бы смогла **смоць**

## VITA BREVIS •

A lifetime  
is more  
than  
sufficiently long  
for people  
to get  
what there is of it  
wrong \*\*.

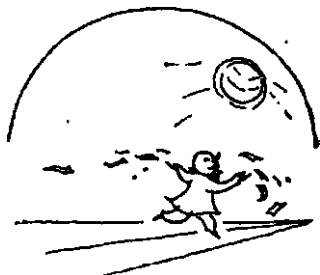
- \* **vita brevis** — жизнь коротка — часть латинской поговорки-*Ars longa, vita brevis* "Жизнь коротка, искусство долговечно"
- \* **to get what there is of it wrong** — чтобы неправильно понять то, что влечёт (жизни человека) заложено

\* \* \*

## A DIPLOMATIC COMPROMISE

A fellow I know  
can get mountains to move \*  
and all opposition  
appeases:  
he preaches what God  
cannot help but approve \*\*  
and does  
what the devil he pleases \*\*\*.

- **can get mountains to move** — горы может двигать
- \*\* **what God cannot help but approve** — что сам бог не может не одобрить
- \*\*\* **does what the devil he pleases** — делает всё, что взбрёт ему в голову



## BUDGETING: THE FIRST LAW \*

If you want to know  
where your money went,

you must spend it quickly  
before it's spent.

#### MORE HASTE \* -

*Inscription, for a monument at the  
crossroads*

Here lies, extinguished in his prime,  
a victim of modernity:  
but yesterday \*\* he hadn't time —  
and now he has eternity.

\* **more haste**—*часть поговорки* "More haste, less speed." Cf.  
"Тише едешь, дальше будешь".

\*\* **but yesterday** — *лишь вчера*

#### THRIFT

Nobody can be lucky all the time;  
so when your luck deserts you in some fashion  
don't think you've been abandoned in your prime\*,  
but rather that you're saving up your ration \*\*,

\* **in your prime** — *в расцвете твоих сил*

\*\* **you're saving up your ration**—*ты экономишь свои запасы  
(удач)*

#### TWO PASSIVISTS

Eradicate the optimist  
who takes the easy view  
that human values will persist<sup>5</sup>  
no matter what we do.  
Annihilate the pessimist  
whose ineffectual cry  
is that the goal's already missed  
however hard we try.



### EXPERTS

Experts have  
their expert fun  
ex cathedra<sup>6</sup>  
telling one  
just how nothing  
can be done.

### TWIN MYSTERY

To many people artists seem  
undisciplined and lawless.  
Such laziness, with such great gifts,  
seems little short of crime.  
One mystery is how they make  
the things they make so flawless }  
another, what they're doing with  
their energy and time.



# PUNS

The dictionary defines a pun as "the humorous use of a word to suggest different meaning". The essence of punning is, of course, that it is a play upon words. The English and Americans are a great people for playing with words<sup>1</sup> in various ways. The jokes included in this section are based on a play upon words and phrases and their word-components.

The jokes are arranged according to the stylistic devices most often used by speakers to achieve a humorous effect.

## 1. PLAY UPON WORDS

### a) Play upon words with the same spelling, the same sound, different meaning (homograph)..

1. Diner: Do you serve \* crabs \*\* here?

Waiter: We serve anyone — sit down.

\* to serve—1. подавать {кушанье к столу}; 2. обслуживать

\*\* a crab—1. краб; 2. раздражительный человек, ворчун

2. — So you're just back from your holiday. Feel any change \*?

— Not a penny.<sup>2</sup>

\* change—1. перемена, изменение; 2. сдача, мелочь

3. Doctor: How is the boy who swallowed the dollar?

Nurse: No change yet.

4. — I went to a hotel for a change and a rest \*.

— Did you get it?

— The bell-boy got the change and the hotel got the rest \*\*.

\* rest—отдых;

\*\* the rest—остальное, остаток

5. **Prisoner**: The judge sent me here for the rest of my life \*.  
**Prison guard**: Have you got any complaints?  
**Prisoner**: Do you call breaking rock with a hammer a rest?  
 • **the rest of my life**—1. to the end of my life; 2. the best rest in my life
6. There will be little change in men's clothing this season; especially very little change in their pockets.
7. ...Change is what a person wants on a holiday — and a lot of currency \*, too.  
 • **currency** ['kʌrənsɪ] —валюта, деньги
8. — What's the matter with your finger?  
 — I hit the wrong nail \*.  
 • **nail** [neɪl] — 1. ноготь; 2. гвоздь
9. "I love thee still \*," said the quiet husband to the chattering wife.  
 • **still a**—тихий, безмолвный; **still adv** — всё еще, по-прежнему
10. One day a painter, looking out of the window, saw an old countryman going by and thought the man would make a good subject for a picture. So he sent out his servant to tell the old man that his master would like to paint \* him. The old man hesitated and asked what the painter would pay him. The painter said he would give him a pound. The man still hesitated.  
 "Come on," said the painter, "it's an easy way to earn a pound."  
 "Oh, I know that," he answered. "I was only wondering how I should get the paint off afterwards."  
 • **to paint** [peɪnt] — 1. красить, раскрашивать, расписывать; 2. писать картину красками
11. A city boy was visiting his cousin on the farm. Walking through the pasture one day, he heard the buzz of a rattlesnake and went over to investigate.  
 "Come away from there!" his cousin shouted. "Don't you know when you go near a rattlesnake he strikes? \*"

"My goodness!" exclaimed the city boy. "Have they got a union \*\* too?"

\* to strike—1. нанести удар, поражать; 2 бастовать  
\*\* trade union — профсоюз

12. At Christmas time every girl wants her past forgotten and her present \* remembered.

\* (the) present — настоящее; present — подарок

**b) Play upon words with the same sound, different spelling, different meaning (homophone).**

1. She: You see, darling, this hat costs only twenty dollars. Good buy \*.

He: Yes, good-bye\*\*, twenty dollars.

\* good b ['gʊd'baɪ]—хорошая, удачная покупка

\*\* good-bye [gʊd'baɪ]—до свидания, прощай

2. He: He always calls his wife "Fare Lady".

She: How romantic. Why does he call her "Fair Lady \*"?

He: It's a habit — he used to be a street-car conductor.

\* fare [feə]—плата за проезд; fair [feə]—прекрасная  
"Fare, lady!"—"Заплатите за проезд, леди!"

LIMERICK

There was a young girl, a **sweet lamb**,  
Who smiled as she entered a tram;  
After she had embarked,  
The conductor remarked,  
Your fare? And she said, Yes, I am.

4. — You know that church on Tenth Street? It accommodates ten thousand souls \*.

— How many heels? \*\*

\* soul [saʊl]. уша; sole [soʊl]—подошва, подметка

\*\* heel [hi:l]—пятка, каблук; heel [hi:l]—(жарг.) подлец, мерзавец

5. — My daughter has arranged a little piece \* for the piano.

— Good! It's about time<sup>3</sup> we had a little peace \*\*.

\* piece [pi:s]—пьеса

\*\* peace [pi:s]—мир; эд. тишина

6. A piece of music is always spelled p-i-e-c-e.  
Peace and music never go together.
7. — What's the difference between a jeweller and a jailer?  
— I don't know. What is the difference?  
— One sells watches \* and the other watches \* cells \*\*.  
\* watch — часы; \* to watch — наблюдать, следить  
\*\* to sell — торговать, продавать; \*\* cell — тюремная камера
8. Why is a fishmonger never generous?  
Because his business makes him sell fish \*.  
\* to sell fish — торговать рыбой; selfish — эгоистичный
9. New chorus girl: Just look at the men watching our step.  
Old timer: If you want to climb to success, you'll have to get used to the stares \*.  
\* stairs [steəz] — ступеньки, лестница; stares [steəz] — пронизательные взгляды
10. T r a g e d i a n : The audience is almost ready to cry, isn't it?  
M a n a g e r : Oh, yes. The whole balcony is in tiers \*.  
\* tiers [tiəz] — ряды, ярусы; tears [tiəz] — слезы
11. — He is the idol \* of our family.  
— Yes, idle \*\* for twenty years.  
• id [aɪd] к у м и р  
\*\* idle [aɪd] — праздный

**c) One word is expressed, another is implied,**

1. — It's raining cats and dogs.  
— Yes, I just stepped into a poodle \*.  
\* poodle [pu:dl] — пудель; puddle [pʌdl] — лужа
2. Alimony — the high cost of leaving \*.  
\* the high cost of living — высокая стоимость жизни;  
to live [lɪv] — жить; to leave [li:v] — покидать, уходить
3. The other day the prettiest girl in our room announced that she had found a new job and would be leaving in a few days. I expressed regret and said I presumed she would make more money.

- "No," she said. "I'll be making less."
  - "Then why on earth \* are you leaving?" I asked.
  - "Well," she said, pointing to the room where she worked, with its exclusively female occupants, "I guess I'm just getting she-sick \*."
  - **to get sea-sick** — страдать морской болезнью
  - to get she-sick** — эд. надоело женское общество
4. — An anecdote is a tale \*, said the teacher. Now, Sidney, use it in a sentence.  
 — I tied a tin can \*\* to the dog's anecdote.
- \* **tale** [teɪl] — рассказ, история; **tail** [teɪl] — хвост
  - \*\* **tin can** — консервная банка
5. Voice on wire: Hello, is this the Fidelity Insurance Company?  
 Operator: Yes, madam.  
 Voice: Well, I want to arrange to have my husband's fidelity \* insured \*\*.
- \* **fidelity** [fɪ'delɪtɪ] — 1. верность, преданность; 2. точность, правильность
  - \*\* **to ensure** [ɪn'ʃʊə] — обеспечивать, гарантировать
  - to insure** [ɪn'ʃʊə] — застраховать; обеспечивать, гарантировать
  - insurance company** — страховая компания
6. Have you heard about the scientist, poor fellow, who had too many irons in the fire \*?
- \* **to have too many irons in the fire** (*proverb*) — иметь слишком много дел одновременно; браться за много дел
  - iron** [aɪən] — железо, **Ion** [aɪən] — физ. ион
7. You have heard about the nuclear scientist who swallowed some uranium and got atomic ache \*, haven't you?
- **atomic ache** [ə'tɔːmɪk 'eɪk] — букв. атомная боль; с/, **a stomach ache** ['stʌmæk 'eɪk] — боль в животе
8. Advertisement in dry-cleaner's: *We die \* for you.*
- \* **to die** [daɪ] — умирать; **to dye** [daɪ] — красить, окрашивать
  - We die for you.** — 1. Мы умираем за вас; 2. Мы жаждем видеть вас у себя.
  - We dye for you.** — Мы красим для вас.

## WHEN THE DYER DIES

The dyer dyes a while, then dies —  
To dye he's always trying  
Until upon his dying bed  
He thinks no more of dyeing.

### d) Play upon verb-adverb combinations.

1. — Jones said he was running for \* governor.  
— Well?  
— They looked up his record and now he's running for a train.  
\* to run for —баллотироваться; to run (for)—бежать (не поезд и т. н.)
2. — Mary is a brilliant woman.  
— Oh, she picks up \* things fast?  
— Yeah, she's a shoplifter \*\*.  
\* to pick up— 1. схватывать на лету (о знаниях); 2. зд. воровать shoplifter —магазинный вор
3. — It was a good cake, but it defied the laws of gravity.<sup>8</sup>  
— How?  
— It was heavy as lead, but it wouldn't go down.\*  
\* to go down—1. опускаться, падать; 2. зд. быть пропущенным
4. — Mother, where does the fire go when it goes out \*?  
— I don't know, son. You might as well ask me where your father goes when he goes out.  
\* to go out—1. гаснуть (об огне); 2. бывать в обществе, выходить из дома
5. — My uncle opened a show and he called it "Night Shirt".  
— Why?  
— Because he put it on \* one night and took it off \*\* the next day.  
\* to put on—1. надевать; 2. ставить (пьесе)  
\*\* to take off—снимать
6. — They are very prominent. Their furniture goes back \* to Louis the 14th; their silverware to Henry the 8th...  
— And their car goes back to the finance company tomorrow.  
\* to go back — 1. восходить к (периоду, времени); 2. возвращаться

## LIMERICK

A Man and his Lady-love,<sup>6</sup> Min,  
Skated out where the ice was thin,  
Had a quarrel, no doubt,  
For I heard, they fell out \*.  
What a blessing,<sup>7</sup> they didn't fall in \*\*!

- **to fall out** — ссориться
- \*\* **to fall in** — провалиться

### 2. PLAY UPON PHRASES AND THEIR WORD-COMPONENTS

**a) Play upon phrases taken as a whole, in both their literal meaning (free combination of words) and figurative meaning (set phrases).**

1. — What have you got put away for a rainy day \*?  
— An umbrella.  
\* **a rainy day** (*free combination of words*) — дождливый день  
**a rainy day** (*set phrase*) — черный день
2. — If you spend so much time at golf you won't have anything laid aside for a rainy day.  
— Won't I? My desk is loaded with work that I've put aside for **a rainy day**.
8. — Grass does not grow under his feet.\*  
— A go-getter \*\*, eh?  
— No, a sailor.  
\* **grass does not grow under one's feet** — он (она и т. д.) не теряет времени даром; он (она и т. д.) проявляет инициативу, действует проворно  
\*\* **go-getter** — (*разг.*) энергичный, удачливый, предприимчивый делец
4. **H a b e r d a s h e r**: These shirts wear like iron \*.  
They just laugh at the laundry.  
**C u s t o m e r**: Yes, I know. I have some just like these. They come back with their sides split \*\*.  
\* **(they) wear like iron** — (им) нет износа  
\*\* **to split one's sides with laughter** — помирать со смеху, надорвать от смеха живот

5. — Really, Bill, your argument with your wife last night was most amusing.  
— Wasn't it though? And when she threw the axe at me I thought I'd split.
6. I worship the ground you walk on \*, Eloise... er... careful of the petunias!  
\* **to worship the (very) ground one walks on** — БЫТЬ ГОТОВЫМ ЦЕЛОВАТЬ ЗЕМЛЮ, ПО КОТОРОЙ ОНА (ИЛИ ОН) ХОДИТ (О *влюбленном или влюбленной*)
7. *Epitaph*!. Kind words that come along too late for me to live up to \* them.  
\* **to live up to** (*free combination of words*) — ДОЖИТЬ ДО;  
**to live up to** (*set phrase*) — ВЕСТИ ДОСТОЙНУЮ ЖИЗНЬ; ОПРАВ, ДАТЬ ОЖИДАНИЯ; НАДЕЖДЫ
8. If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way \*.  
\* **to be (stand) in one's way** (*free combination of words*) — БЫТЬ (СТОЯТЬ) НА ДОРОГЕ  
**to be (stand) in one's way** (*set phrase*) — СТОЯТЬ КОМУ-Л. ПОПЕРЕК ДОРОГИ, МЕШАТЬ, ВЕРТЕТЬСЯ ПОД НОГАМИ
9. A lawyer, when driving along a narrow lane, had difficulty in avoiding running over an old woman who was picking up some beets which had fallen from a passing cart.  
"Women and donkeys are always in the way," he said.  
"Sure, sir," was the old lady's reply. "I'm glad you have the manners to put yourself last."
10. A young sailor came home on leave and said: "Dad, I need your help. I've got to get something off my chest \*."  
"Oh," his father said, "tell me."  
The sailor said, "I'm going to marry Joan, but I've got to get this off my chest." He opened his shirt and there on his chest was tattooed: "I love Fifi."  
\* **to get smth off one's chest** (*free combination of words*) — УДАЛИТЬ ЧТО-Л. С ГРУДИ (*зд.* татуировку)  
**to get smth off one's chest** (*set phrase*) — ЧИСТОСЕРДЕЧНО СОЗНАТЬСЯ В ЧЁМ-Л., ОБЛЕГЧИТЬ ДУШУ
11. What's up \* now?  
\* **to be up** — 1. произойти; 2. повиситься в цене

**b) Play upon meaning of separate word-components of phrases.**

1. Senior <sup>8</sup> (*at a basketball game*): See that big substitute down there playing forward? I think lie's going to be our best man \* next year.

Co-ed: <sup>9</sup> Oh, darling, this is so sudden.

\* best man—1. шафер 2. *зд.* лучший игрок

2. The best man does not always get the bride.

3. — What were you doing during the War?

— I was doing time \*.

\* to do time—(*вор. жарг.*) отбывать тюремное заключение, отсиживать свой срок

4. The editor of a small country newspaper<sup>10</sup> asked a local big business man to give him a full-page advertisement for his Christmas supplement.

— Where does your paper go? — asked the doubtful business man.

— It goes, the editor declared, — from Maine to California, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico<sup>11</sup> and if you don't give me that advertisement pretty quick it is going, to the dogs \*.

\* to go to the dogs—разрушиться, развалиться; разориться; погибнуть; вылететь в трубу; пойти прахом

5. — Johnny, I wish you'd be a good little boy.

— I'll be good for a nickel.<sup>12</sup>

— The idea!<sup>13</sup> Why can't you be good like your father, good for nothing \*?

\* good for nothing—ни на что не годный, никчемный; бездельник, лоботряс; 2. хороший без платы, просто так

6. H e: Hello, Mr. Brown.

S h e: I suppose he's angry with you. He didn't return your bow \*.

H e: Oh, he's my neighbour — he never returns anything.

\* to return a bow [bau] — ответить на поклон  
to return — возвращать

7. Many a man works hard to keep the wolf from the door \*. Then his daughter grows up and brings one right into the house.
- **to keep the wolf from the door** — предотвратить голод; бЧиротья с нищетоу  
**wolf**—(slang) жадный человек, хищник
8. Old gentleman: Does your watch tell the time \*?  
Youngster: No, sir. You have to look at it.
- **to tell (the) time**—1. показывать время (о часах); 2. сказать, который час на часах
9. Old lady: And what is your name, my good man?  
Convict: 999.  
Old lady: Oh, but that's not your real name.  
Convict: Naw, " that's only my pen name \*.
- **pen-name** — литературный псевдоним  
**pen** — (slang) тюрьма
10. Mamma: Where have you been, Johnny?  
Johnny: Playing ball.  
Mamma (severely): But I told you to beat the rug \*, didn't I?  
Johnny: No, ma'am. You told me to hang the rug on the line and beat it \*\*.
- \* **to beat the rug** — выбивать коврик
  - \*\* **to beat it** — (амер. разг.) убежать, удирать

### 3. PLAY UPON GRAMMATICAL AND PHONETIC STRUCTURES

1. Sergeant: Who likes moving pictures \*? (Most of the men eagerly step forward.) All right, you fellows carry the pictures from the basement to the attic.
- moving pictures (*as understood by the soldiers*) — the cinema; кино (ам.); here 'moving' is an attribute;  
moving pictures (*as meant by the sergeant*) — to move pictures; here 'moving' is an object (gerund); cf. WЖю likes to move pictures?—Кому нравится передвигать картины?
2. — What has four legs and flies \*?  
— I don't know.  
— Your dinner table.
- \* **flies**—3 лицо ед. ч. от **to fly** —летать  
**flies**—мн. ч. от а Ну — муха

3. An angler was staying at an inn situated close to a river which provided good fishing, and desirous of getting some bait, he said to the servant-maid: — I say,<sup>15</sup> girl, can I get horse-flies \* round here? The girl looked wooden.  
— Have you ever seen a horse-fly \*\* in these parts?  
— No, sir, but I once saw a cow jump over a fence \*\*\*.

\* a horse-fly ['hoisflai] — слепень

\*\* to see a horse fly — видеть, как лошадь летает

\*\*\* cf. I ... saw a cow jump over a fence — Я видела, как корова перепрыгнула через забор

4. Mother: Jimmie, run over and see how old Mrs. Smith is \* this morning.

Jummie (returning): She said to tell you it was none of your business.

Mother: Why Jimmie, what in the world did you ask her?<sup>1B</sup>

Jimmie: Just what you told me to. I said you wanted to know how old she was.

\* see how (short pause) 'old 'Mrs. 'Smith is — узнай, как себя чувствует старая миссис Смит

'see (short pause) 'how 'old Mrs. 'Smith is — узнай, сколько лет миссис Смит

5. Professor: Name two pronouns.

Student: Who? Me?

6. A lady had just purchased a postage stamp.

— Must I stick it on myself \*?

— Positively not, madam. It will accomplish more if you stick it on the envelope.

\* stick it on myself (амфат. мест.) — наклеить марку сама

stick it on myself (возврати, мест.) — наклеить на себя

7. Teacher (paying a visit): Are your father and mother in, Morton?

Morton: They was in, but they is out.

Teacher: Why, Morton! 'They was in!' 'They is out!' Where's your grammar? \*"

Morton: She's upstairs taking a nap.

\* grammar — воспринимается мальчиком, как небрежно произнесенное слово grandma ['græntmɑ:] — разг. бабушка

8. — Waiter!

— Yes, sir»

- What's this?
- It's bean soup \*, sir.
- No matter what it's *been* \*\*. What is it now?
- \* **It's bean soup** ['bi:n su:p] — Это фасолевый суп.
- No matter what it's been.** = No matter what it has been. — Неважно, что это было.

9. — Is a chicken big enough to eat \* when it's two weeks old?
- Of course not!
  - Then how does it manage to live?
  - \* **big enough to eat** — 1. достаточно большой, чтобы (самостоятельно) есть; 2. достаточно вырос, чтобы его съели

10.

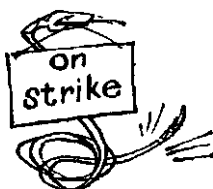
LIMERICK

A wonderful bird is the pelican! \*  
 His mouth can hold more than his belican \*\*  
 He can take in his beak  
 Enough food for a week —  
 I'm darned if I know how the helican \*\*\*

- \* **pelican** ['pelɪkən] — пеликан
- \*\* **belican** = belly сап ['belɪkən] — живот, брюхо, пузо
- \*\*\* **helican** = hell he сап ['helɪkən] — Черт его знает, как эти ему удается.

11. **Director:** Now in this scene I want you to make love to her like a bear or a gorilla or something.  
**Actor:** Yes, sir. I'll do the beast \* I can.

- \* **be** {bi:st} зверь
- best** {best} — *превосх. стень, от good*
- I'll do **the best** I can. — Я сделаю все возможное.
- I'll do **the beast** (*short pause*) I can. — Я сыграю зверя, я это смогу.



# Playing around with words

## JOKES. HUMOUR

In the chapter *Playing Around with Words* (which means literally "баловство со словами"), we try to help the student of the English language get a better understanding of English humour. We explained the different linguistic devices used in achieving a humorous effect in jokes in the previous chapter. In this chapter there are more jokes and most of them are based on the various devices dealt with in the previous chapter. We suggest you try to get at the meaning yourself and then check to see if you understood the joke correctly by referring to the Notes and Vocabulary.

1. Real estate agent: <sup>1</sup> Now here's a house without a flaw.  
Oxford graduate: Good gracious!<sup>2</sup> What do you walk on?
2. "I have listened carefully to you for a long time, Mr. Davidson," said the judge in acid tones, "but I am none the wiser."<sup>3</sup>  
"I hardly expected your lordship to be " \* replied the counsel politely, "but I thought you might be better informed."
3. "And how's lawyer Jones doing,<sup>5</sup> Doctor?"  
"Poor fellow, he's lying at death's door."  
"That's grit for you;<sup>6</sup> at death's door, and still lying."
4. "I am sorry to say," said the doctor, "your wife is lying at death's door."  
"Well," answered the husband, "I hope you pull her through."
6. Some women take up the law<sup>7</sup> and become lawyers. Others lay down the law and become wives.

6. "You'll have to remember that nobody ever layed down on the job and got results."  
"Oh no? What about a hen!"
7. "He boasts he runs things in his family."  
"He does — the lawn mower, the washing machine, vacuum cleaner, baby carriage and the errands.
8. M r. W i c k s (*to a young man*): "You said you will not marry my daughter. But it was you who told me a few months ago that you dreamed only of her?"  
Y o u n g m a n (*apologetically*): "So I did, sir. Now I am wide awake."<sup>8</sup>
9. "We call it our dream house — the price was a nightmare."
10. Today's tabloid biography:  
High chair, high school, high stool, high finance, high hat — hi, warden!<sup>9</sup>
11. Man's life: school tablets — aspirin tablets — stone tablets.
12. The swiftest means of communication: telegraph, telephone and tell a woman.
13. The delivery boy from the fishmonger's presented his package to the maid with the simple announcement, "It's C. O. D." »  
The girl bristled up and replied, "You needn't spell it out for me — and besides the mistress ordered haddock."
14. "A collision is when two things come together unexpectedly. Can you give us an example of a collision, Betty?"  
"Yes'm. Twins."
15. Visitor: "I wonder if I can see your mother, my boy. Is she engaged?"  
Little boy: "Engaged! She's married!"
16. Prof: "What do you know about Spanish syntax?"<sup>10</sup>  
Student: "Gosh," I didn't know they had to pay for their fun."
17. Prof: "Take this sentence, 'Let the cow be taken to the pasture.' What mood?"<sup>13</sup>  
Student: "The cow."

18. Lady: "Are you sure these crabs are fresh?"  
 Fishmonger: "Madam, they are positively insulting." "
19. "I'm so sore from running<sup>15</sup> that I can't stand or sit."  
 "If you are telling the truth, you're lying."
20. Cannibal Cook: "Shall I stew both those  
 cooks we captured from the steamer?"  
 Cannibal King: "No, one is enough. Too many  
 cooks spoil the broth."<sup>16</sup>
21. Husband: "I warned you about exceeding the Feed  
 limit."<sup>17</sup>

## 22. AN ONION A DAY ...OR A SLIMMING DIET

Two fat men are discussing various slimming diets.  
 "My wife has told me," says one of them, "that the  
 best way is to cut out potatoes and cakes. I've tried  
 it only to put on five pounds of weight."<sup>18</sup>  
 "Then try my diet," says the other. "It's an onion diet.  
 I've lost five pounds and twenty-five friends."

23. He: "All women are divided into three classes: the  
 looked at, the looked over and the overlooked."  
 She: "Really? And so are men: the intelligent, the  
 handsome and the majority."
24. Wife: "We've got to fire that chauffeur."<sup>19</sup> He's  
 nearly killed me four times."  
 Husband: "He's a good man. Let's give him another  
 chance."
25. "Wells Albert, how did you get along in the exami-  
 nation in English grammar today?"  
 "Oh, I done fine, Pop. I only made one mistake and  
 I seen that as soon as I done it."
26. Man (*to his neighbour*): "I'm taking a honey-dew<sup>20</sup>  
 vacation this year. You know, this is when you stay  
 at home and the whole time your wife says: 'Honey,  
 do this' and 'Honey, do that.'"

## 27. MEN ABOUT THE HOUSE<sup>21</sup>

Husband painting house to husband washing windows:  
 "You are lucky only getting a two-week vacation.  
 I get three."

28. Husband: "It seems like more than a coincidence that you wash everything on my day off...!"
29. "The human anatomy is a wonderful bit of mechanism"<sup>25</sup>  
 "Yes. Pat a man on the back and you'll make his head swell."
30. "What do we do when we breathe?"  
 "When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire."
31. Why is the fisherman's the most lucrative employment? It's all net profit.<sup>25</sup>
32. "Son, I'm spanking you because I love you."  
 "Dad, I'd like to be big enough to return your love."
33. "Well," said the doctor to the housewife, "what is the matter with your husband? He looks worried."  
 "I think, doctor, he is worried about money."  
 "Well, you just send him to me. I can relieve him of that."
34. Love starts when she sinks in his arms and ends with her arms in the sink.
35. "Your hat is becoming..."<sup>24</sup>  
 "Oh, thank you."  
 "... becoming a little worn out."
36. Lady: "If you love work, why don't you find it?"  
 Tramp: "Alas, lady, love is blind."
37. "What did Franklin say when he discovered electricity?"  
 "Nothing, he was too shocked."
38. "You want to go in and say:<sup>25</sup> 'Good morning, Judge. How do you feel?'"  
 "Not me. I did that once and the judge said: 'Fine — \$10'."
39. Tramp: "Sure, mam, I've got three degrees. One from Harvard, one from Princeton, and the third degree<sup>26</sup> from the police."
40. "What do you mean by arguing with that customer?"<sup>27</sup>  
 "Don't you know that the customer is always right?"  
 "I know it but he insisted that he was wrong."
41. "Was your wife outspoken?"<sup>28</sup>  
 "Not by anyone I know of."

42. "She has good points."  
 "So have pins, but they stick you."
43. "Why do people say 'Dame Gossip'?"  
 "Because they are too polite to leave off the 'e'".<sup>29</sup>
44. "Ireland should be the richest country in the world."  
 "How is that?"  
 "Her capital has been Dublin for years."
45. Jane: How old are you?  
 Mabel: I just turned twenty-three.  
 Jane: I get it. Thirty-two.
46. "Much depends on the formation of early habits."  
 "I know it; when I was a baby my mother hired a woman to wheel me about, and I have been pushed for money ever since."<sup>30</sup>
47. "You should be ashamed of yourself, laughing at that fat man."  
 "I'm just having fun at his expense."<sup>31</sup>
48. Teacher: What are the people of New York noted for?  
 Boy: The people of New York are noted for their stupidity.  
 Teacher: Wherever did you get that information?  
 Boy: From our book, Mrs. Smith. It says: 'The population of New York is very dense'.

#### 49. PUNS ARE IRRESISTIBLE

A king's jester punned incessantly until the king, in desperation, condemned him to be hanged. However, when the executioners had taken the jester to the gallows, the king, thinking that after all a good jester was not easy to find, relented,<sup>32</sup> and sent a messenger post haste with a royal pardon.

Arriving at the gallows just in time, where the jester stood with the rope already around his neck, the messenger read the king's decree, to the effect that the jester would be pardoned<sup>33</sup> if he would promise never to make another pun. The jester could not resist the temptation of the opportunity, however, for he cackled out:

"No noose is good news."<sup>34</sup>  
 And they hanged him.

50. WHISKERS VERSUS RAZOR<sup>35</sup>

With whiskers thick upon my face  
I went my fair to see;  
She told me she could never love  
A bear-faced<sup>36</sup> chap like me.

I shaved then clean, and called again,  
and thought my troubles over;<sup>37</sup>  
She laughed outright, and said I was  
More bare-faced<sup>38</sup> than before.

51. Only in wars and epidemics does our country ask us to  
bear our arms.<sup>39</sup> (*From "Kids sure rite funny"*)

52. "I'm so upset," declared the young bride. "I've just  
married a man who simply cannot bear children."<sup>40</sup>  
"Well," sniffed her maiden aunt, "you can't expect  
everything of a man."

53. A pretty deer is dear to me,  
A hare with downy hair,  
A hart I love with all my heart,  
But barely bear a bear.

54. The difference between winter and summer is that in  
winter the bare limbs are on trees.

55. The professor rapped on his desk and shouted: "Gentle-  
men, order!"  
The entire class yelled: "Beer!"

56. Beer often brings a bier to man,  
Coughing a coffin brings.  
And too much ale will make us ail,  
As well as other things.

57. "I can't tell you how long I have laboured on this  
manuscript," the aspiring writer told the producer,  
"polishing a scene here, adding a line there, elimi-  
nating scenes, and adding new characters."  
"What a pity,"<sup>41</sup> said the producer, handing it back  
to him. "All work and no play."<sup>42</sup>

58. O l d H e n : Let me give you some good advice.  
Y o u n g H e n : What is it?  
O l d H e n : An egg a day keeps the axe away.<sup>43</sup>

59. **D o c t o r** (*to sick man*): Cheer up, my man. You'll pull through.<sup>44</sup>  
**S i c k m a n**: Yes, doctor, but just think of all the apples I bought to keep you away.
60. **S h e**: I guess your brother was pleased when he found himself the father of twin boys.  
**H e**: Was he!<sup>45</sup> He went around grinning from heir to heir.<sup>46</sup>

### More Jokes

1. A famous speaker lectured to the members of a literary society, and at the end of his address the secretary approached him with a check. This he politely refused, saying that it might be devoted to some charitable purpose.

"Would you mind," asked the secretary, "if we add it to our special fund?"

"Not at all," said the speaker. "What is the special fund for?"

"To enable us to get better lecturers next year."

2. **A STAR SPEAKER**

"He's quite a star as an after-dinner speaker, isn't he?"

"Star? He's a regular moon.<sup>47</sup> He becomes brighter the fuller he gets."

3. **A BRILLIANT ADDRESS**

It was a formal banquet, and the hands of the clock crept round towards midnight as celebrity after celebrity sought to be entertaining. \*\*

"Mr. Blank will now give us his address, which will, I am sure, be a pleasure for all of us," said the toast-master.

Mr. Blank rose with his watch in his hand, held it up and said pointedly: "My address is 29 Clifton Street, New York City. I wish you all a very hearty good-night" —

And departed to catch his train.<sup>49</sup>

4. ONE AT A TIME<sup>50</sup>

The speaker was getting tired of being interrupted. "We seem to have a great many fools here tonight," he said. "Wouldn't it be advisable to hear one at a time?" "Yes," said a voice. "Get on with your speech."

5. A TELLING STORY

"She told me," a woman complained to a friend, "that you told her the secret I told you not to tell her." "Well," replied her friend in a hurt tone, "I told her not to tell you I told her." "Oh, dear," sighed the first woman. "Well, don't tell her I told you that she told me."

6. WHAT IS A SECRET?

A woman's idea of keeping a secret is refusing to tell who told it.

7. W i f e: Scientists claim that the average person speaks 10,000 words a day.

H u s b a n d: Yes, dear, but remember, you are far above average.

8. "I'm a man of few words."

"I know — I'm married, too."

9. C a l l e r: Doctor, my husband has some terrible mental affliction. Sometimes I talk to him for an hour and then discover he hasn't said a word.

D o c t o r: Madam, that's not a mental affliction — that's a gift.

10. W i f e: Well, I hope you're satisfied. The maid quit this morning because of the insulting language you used over the telephone.

H u s b a n d: Good grief!" I thought I was talking to you!

11. HOW TO MAKE A HIT

"That speaker certainly made a hit."

"What did he talk about?"

"About five minutes."

12. HE REACHED THE LIMIT

"I have discontinued long talks on account of my throat," the speaker remarked. "Several people have threatened to cut it."

13. A SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE SURPASSED

"Now I guess they will all get up and begin to make speeches," remarked one diner to the man next to him. "Did you ever hear a really good after-dinner speech?"

"Just once. A friend of mine said: 'Waiter, bring me the check.'"

14. FOR THE LOVE OF LIFE"

Do you love life? Then don't waste time, for that is the stuff life is made of. (*B. Franklin*)

15. THE FATE OF DISCOVERERS

Christopher Columbus did not know where he was sailing. When he landed he did not know where he was. When he got back to Spain he did not know where he had been.

16. IS IT EASY TO BE ORIGINAL?

Soon after Columbus discovered America, he was in company with Mendoza, the Grand Cardinal of Spain;<sup>65</sup> and, as he was then the hero of the day, it was natural that the greatest honours were assigned to him.

A shallow courtier present felt indignant that a foreigner was loaded with so many honours and abruptly asked Columbus whether he thought the Indies would not have been discovered, if he had not had the good fortune to find them.

To this Columbus made no reply, but, taking an egg, invited the company to make it stand on one end. Everyone attempted it, but in vain.

Then he took the egg, struck it upon the table so as to break the end, and left it standing on the broken part.

"Everyone might do that," exclaimed the courier.

"There's nothing in that."

"Quite right," replied Columbus, "but the only difference between me and everyone else is, I did what others might have done."

17. A JOKE? NOT SO FUNNY.

One evening Rutherford dropped into the laboratory.

Though it was late, he found one of his students working with some apparatus.

"What are you doing here so late?" Rutherford asked.

"I'm working, sir," was the answer.

"And what do you do in the day time?"

"Why, I work, of course, sir," answered the student.

"Do you work early in the morning, too?"

"Yes, professor, I work early in the morning, too," said the student, quite sure that the famous scientist would praise him.

Rutherford looked at him gloomily.

"Tell me," he asked with irritation, "when do you think?"

ONE OF THOSE WHO THINK

"I think and think, for months, for years, ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right." (*Albert Einstein*)

**Riddles**

Puns are very often found in answers to riddles. The foreign student of the English language cannot be expected to guess the answers to these intricate type of riddles, so the answers are given right after the riddle.

1. Why are teeth like verbs?

Because they can be regular, irregular and defective.<sup>54</sup>

2. What runs quicker, heat or cold?

Heat. Because you can catch cold.<sup>55</sup>

3. What is the quickest letter in the alphabet?

R, because it is always first in race.

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

Smiles. Between the first V and the second 's' is a mile.

5. Why is every music teacher always a good teacher?  
Because he is a sound teacher.
6. When is a manager of a theatre like an astronomer?  
When he discovers a new star.

### Things One Would Rather Have Left Unsaid <sup>58</sup>

The humour of this type of jokes is based on a slip of the tongue <sup>57</sup> made in conversation. The meaning of what was said is usually ambiguous.

1. S h e (*who did not know they were to meet*): "Why, Mr, Brown, this is a pleasant surprise!"  
H e (*who did*): "I can't altogether say it is so to me, Miss Jones."
2. H o s t e s s : "Please don't stop playing, Miss Jessop."  
M i s s J e s s o p : "But shan't I bore you? It is possible to have too much of a good thing, you know."  
H o s t e s s : "Yes, but that doesn't apply to your playing."
3. H o s t e s s (*who has just sung*) "Are you quite sure that you don't sing, Captain Lovell?"  
C a p t a i n L o v e l l : "I assure, you-a-I've no voice whatever. A-unfortunately I-I'm a listener."
4. Two lawyers before a judge got into a wrangle. <sup>58</sup> At last one of them, losing control over his emotions, exclaimed to his opponent: "Sir, you are the biggest fool that I have ever had the misfortune to set my eyes on."<sup>59</sup> "Order, order," said the judge gravely. "You must seem to forget that I am in the room."
5. The headmaster of a local school received the following note: "Dear Teacher, please excuse John for being late. His uncle died last night, and we had a hard time waking him up this morning."<sup>60</sup>

### Deft Definitions

A synonym for *deft* is *clever*. Deft definitions are not only funny because they are clever but as humorous definitions they are not far from the truth. Judge for yourself.

1. Experience: a form of knowledge acquired in only two ways — by doing and being done.<sup>61</sup>

2. Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes.  
*(Oscar Wilde)*
3. Housework: Something you do that nobody notices unless you don't do it.
4. Discretion: When you are sure that you are right but still ask your wife.
5. An expert is someone who is called in at the last moment to share the blame.
6. "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." *(Thomas A. Edison)*
7. An expert is a man who knows a great deal about a very little; and who goes on knowing more and more about less and less, until finally he knows practically everything about nothing; whereas a reviewer is a man who knows a very little about a great deal and keeps on knowing less and less about more and more until finally he knows practically nothing about everything.
8. A psychologist is a man who watches everybody else when a beautiful girl enters the room.

And, finally, there is the type of humour which pursues a very serious aim — to attract the attention of the consumer and to warn drivers to be careful.

#### Advertisements

1. NOW A PRETTY FACE NEEDN'T COST A PRETTY PENNY.<sup>62</sup>  
*(From an advertisement for cold cream)*
2. YOU CAN TALK US DOWN ANY TIME.<sup>63</sup>  
*(Inviting women to join the air force)*
3. ONE RESTAURANT THAT EVERYONE LOOKS UP TO.  
*(Advertising Top of Tower restaurant)*
4. WANTED DONKEY<sup>64</sup> TO DO WORK OF COUNTRY DOCTOR.
5. BULLDOG FOR SALE;<sup>65</sup> WILL EAT ANYTHING, VERY FOND OF CHILDREN.

6. LITTLE JILL FOUND A PILL  
LYING ON THE FLOOR.  
LITTLE JILL SWALLOWED THE PILL  
AND NOW SHE IS NO MORE.

*(Advertisement "Prevention of Accidents!")*

### Drive-Safe Signs <sup>66</sup>

1. It's better to be late, Mr. Motorist, than be the lateMr. Motorist.<sup>67</sup>
2. The driver is safer when the road is dry. The road is safer when the driver is dry.<sup>68</sup>
3. Check your brakes and your breaks will check you.
4. The average time it takes a train to pass this crossing is 4 seconds whether your car is on it or not.



# A few words on slang

Mr. Parkhill, the teacher of an evening school for foreigners wondered whether he had not been a little rash in taking up Idioms<sup>1</sup> with the beginners' grade.<sup>2</sup> Idioms were, of course, of primary importance to those who sought an understanding of English; they are the very essence of the language.<sup>3</sup> At the last session<sup>4</sup> of the class, Mr. Parkhill had spent a careful hour in explaining what idioms were,<sup>5</sup> how they grew, how they took on meaning. He had illustrated his lecture with many examples drawn from "English for Beginners". He had answered questions. And for homework he had assigned what seemed a simple enough exercise: one short sentence, using an idiom in it. But now Mr. Parkhill realized that he had been too optimistic. The assignment was not proving a success. It was, in truth, incredible.

"Mr. Kaplan, read your sentence, please," -said Mr. Parkhill briskly.

Mr. Kaplan rose. He read it distinctly, and with pride: 'He's nuts.'<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Parkhill took a long, deep breath. "That's not an idiom, Mr. Kaplan. That's slang."<sup>7</sup> No one who uses English correctly, with taste, would ever use an expression like 'He's nuts'."

Dismay crept into Mr. Kaplan's face. "Is not a good expression 'He's nuts'?" he asked, with a certain hurt.

"No, Mr. Kaplan. It's very bad."

"But so many are using these words," Mr. Kaplan protested.

Mr. Parkhill shook his head. "It doesn't matter how many people say it, Mr. Kaplan. It's an incorrect phrase. It has no place in good English."

With much feeling Mr. Parkhill drove home the point<sup>8</sup> that "He's nuts" was outlawed by the canons of good usage.<sup>9</sup> And Mr. Kaplan bowed to the hegemony of the purists.<sup>10</sup> He seemed a little saddened. Something in Mr. Kaplan died with the death of "He's nuts".

(After Leonard O. Ross)

#### DEFT DEFINITION

A hobby is something you get goofy about<sup>11</sup> to keep from going nuts about things in general.

### Characteristics of Slang

Slang has several distinguishing characteristics. It is often coined by groups of people discontented with the traditional words and expressions. For this reason it usually has a particular racy and vivid quality<sup>12</sup> which ordinary expressions lack. Slang is a mark of group identity. It is noticeable that much coinage of new words at the moment is going on among teenagers, who feel it necessary to mark out their separateness from the adult world. They use special expressions as they wear special clothes, or distinctive hairstyles.<sup>13</sup> Slang develops when people encounter a new set of circumstances for which they do not feel the current vocabulary is adequate. Thus, during periods of disturbance or war there is often a great increase in the number of slang coinages. Many such words occur in the English language from the slang of the soldiers during the First World War and the air force during the Second.

Another feature of slang is its transitoriness. Slang words tend to be fashionable and when the fashion has gone the words disappear. This does not always happen, however. Many words that were coined as slang in the first place,<sup>14</sup> have remained and become a necessary part of the language. Thus, words like *bus*, *flimsy*, *banter*, *flippant*, *mob*, *dodge*, *fun*, *snob* and *squabble* began life as slang, but because they expressed a meaning which no other word quite expressed, they survived. Slang can be regarded as a kind of proving ground<sup>18</sup> for words where they go through tests of their suitability for permanent employment.

An interesting group of words is those which have remained slang for many years, sometimes centuries, and

have never quite been admitted to the respectability of Standard English.<sup>16</sup> These tend to be words connected with subjects which people consider not quite respectable: crime, drink, sex, drugs, insanity, for example.

Like other forms of language, slang has its appropriate and inappropriate occasions. It would be quite inappropriate in a court of law<sup>17</sup> for the judge to use slang to the witness and say, for example, nark it or turn it in, meaning, roughly, "Please stop that particular line of argument." On the other hand, the language of the law court would be quite inappropriate in, for example, a public house where one was having # drink with a friend.<sup>18</sup> For someone whose native language is not English, slang is a thing to understand and appreciate, rather than use oneself, because it is so closely identified with the nation of its origin.<sup>19</sup>

(From "English by Radio and Television")

#### PICTURESQUE SPEECH...

The foregoing extract advises foreigners not to use slang. Coming from a foreigner it often sounds out of place even when used correctly. But when slang is used incorrectly you make yourself look silly.

As, for instance, when a turbaned gentleman<sup>20</sup> announced his mother's death:

"The hand that rocked the cradle has kicked the bucket."<sup>21</sup>

"*To kick the bucket*" is 100% slang, meaning "to die".

"*The hand that rocked the cradle*" is an idiomatic figure of speech, meaning "Mother". Here is another example illustrating the usage of this expression.

#### WORLD DOMINATION

Baby who was still too young to walk had cried and fretted all day, until his harassed mother thought she would lose her mind. She told her husband about it when he came home that evening.

"Well, remember," he reminded her, "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

About 8.30 that night, with Baby still crying as before, she said to him: "Assume world domination for a couple of hours, darling, while I go to the movies."

In this anecdote the use of the expression "the hand that rocks the cradle" lends humour to the story whereas in the words of "the turbaned gentleman" it is ludicrous.

#### "A MAN CAN KICK THE BUCKET BUT ONCE"

You may have seen the American film "This mad, mad, mad world".<sup>22</sup> At the beginning of the film two cars are racing along a highway at breath-taking speed. One of the cars runs off the road, the driver is thrown out of the car and a bucket rolling down the hillside comes to a stop at the man's feet. There is a close-up:<sup>23</sup> the man draws back his foot and then vigorously kicks the bucket. After that the foot is motionless. He has "kicked the bucket"!

#### EASIER UNDERSTOOD THAN TRANSLATED

Consider the following sentence in American English. It has its own, independent meaning. No context is needed to understand it.

*The girl who waits for a smart cookie usually ends up with a crumb.*

What do you, reader, make of it?

You may not know the words "cookie" and "crumb". You look them up in the English-Russian dictionary and get:

**cookie** — *амер.* домашнее печенье; **crumb** — крошка.

So you figure out that the sentence in Russian would be:

*Девушке, которая ищет печенье, обычно достаются одни крошки.*

"That," you think to yourself, "is the main idea, but what is a 'smart cookie'?"

The word 'smart' in the dictionary is translated: 1. ловкий, находчивый, остроумный; 2. нарядный, модный and there are other translations which can't possibly go with 'cookie'.

You decide it is one of these cases one meets so often when studying a foreign language: you "feel" the meaning but "just cannot express it in Russian". So you decide that the translation *Девушке, которая ищет особое печенье,*

*обычно достаются одни крошки* is good enough. But is it really a good enough translation?

It is not! The real meaning has eluded you. To get at it you have to know...slang! The "Pocket Dictionary of American Slang" compiled by Harold Wentworth and Stuart, Berg Flexner tells us that the innocent words "cookie" and "crumb" have other meanings:

**smart cookie** 3. A man; usually a man who is self-confident, clever or brusque

**crumb; crum** 2. A dirty, slovenly, repulsive person.<sup>24</sup>

3. An untrustworthy, loathsome, or objectionable person; an insignificant, despicable person.<sup>25</sup>

Thus, a more correct translation would be something like this,:

*Девушке, которая ждет принца, обычно достается негодяй.*

## SECOND THOUGHTS ARE OFTEN BEST

Let's take some jokes with slang or colloquial words in them. Read each joke carefully and try to catch the humour before reading the explanations given in Notes. The definitions are taken from "The Pocket Dictionary of American Slang".

1. Customer: I want a close shave.

Barber: You just had one.

Customer: How's that?

Barber: That big guy who walked in just as you took your hand off the manicurist's knee is her husband.<sup>26</sup>

2. Army doctor: Have you any physical defects?

Inductee: Yes, no guts.<sup>27</sup>

3. He: Would you marry a sap just for his money?

She: Are you gathering statistics or proposing?<sup>28</sup>

4. Courtship is what makes a man spoon, but marriage is what makes him fork over.<sup>29</sup>

6. Husband: Sorry, I'm late again.

Wife: I suppose you're up to your neckin' work again.<sup>30</sup>

6. "Why does your grandmother read the Bible so much?"  
"I think she's cramming for the finals."<sup>31</sup>
7. "He lost both legs in a train wreck last year."  
"Did the railroad treat him right?"  
"He can't kick."<sup>32</sup>
8. And then there was the day the famed painter, James Whistler, went into his mother's room and found the old lady lying on the floor.  
"Why, Mother," he exclaimed, "you're off your rocker,"<sup>33</sup>

# Lesson on Grammar

## **Why Grammar is Confusing.<sup>1</sup>**

English grammar is confusing enough as it is — what makes it doubly confusing is that, like women's fashions, it is constantly changing.

This means that some of the strict rules which you learned so painfully... may no longer be completely<sup>2</sup> valid. In other words, you may be knocking yourself out<sup>2</sup> in an attempt to speak perfect English, and yet achieve, at best,<sup>3</sup> the doubtful distinction of sounding stuffy and pedantic...

## **How Grammar Changes.**

If you think that grammar is an exact science, get ready for a shock. Grammar is a science, all right \* — but it is mostly inexact. There are no inflexible laws, no absolutely hard and fast rules,<sup>5</sup> no unchanging principles. Correctness varies with the times and depends much more on geography, on social class, and on collective human caprice than on the restrictions found in textbooks...

Grammar follows the speech habits of the majority of educated people — not the other way round.<sup>6</sup> That is the important point to keep in mind...

## **How to Speak Naturally.**

Consider this statement by a noted author: "If I, as a novelist, wrote dialogue for my characters which was meticulously grammatical, the result would be the creation of a speech which would render the characters pompous and unreal." ...

Consider this puckish remark: "Even if you do learn to speak correct English, who are you going to speak it to?" ...

One way to discover current trend in usage is to poll a cross section of people who use the language professionally,<sup>7</sup> inquiring as to their opinion of the acceptability, in everyday speech, of certain specific and controversial expressions...

*Test*                      *Yourself:*

The following notes on current trends in modern usage are intended to help you come to a decision about certain controversial expressions. As you read each sentence pay attention to the underlined word or words. Decide whether the sentence is right or wrong, then compare your conclusion with the opinion given in the explanatory paragraphs that follow the test.

- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Have you <b>got</b> a dollar?                       | Right | Wrong |
| 2. <b>Who</b> do you love?                             | Right | Wrong |
| 3. Mother, <b>can</b> I go out to play?                | Right | Wrong |
| 4. <b>I will</b> be happy to go to the dance with you. | Right | Wrong |
| 5. <b>It</b> is me.                                    | Right | Wrong |
| 6. <i>I would</i> like to ask you a question.          | Right | Wrong |
| 7. Her new novel is not as good as her first one.      | Right | Wrong |
| 8. <b>Who</b> are you waiting for?                     | Right | Wrong |

1. Have you **got** a dollar? RIGHT. The purists turn chalk white when they hear have got as a substitute for have. But the fact is have **got** is an established American form of expression.
2. **Who** do you love? RIGHT. "The English language shows some disposition to get rid of whom altogether, and unquestionably it would be a better language with whom gone." So wrote J. K. Aiken, of Columbia University, in 1936. Today, many years later,<sup>8</sup> the disposition has become a full-fledged force...

The rules for who and whom are pretty complicated. Follow them strictly if you have the time and inclination; on the other hand, if you prefer to use the democratic **who** for informal everyday speech...go right ahead. You'll be speaking good, idiomatic English.

3. Mother, can I go out to play? RIGHT. If you insist that your child say **may**, and nothing but may, when asking for permission, modern parents

- may** consider you old-fashioned and puristic. Can is not discourteous, incorrect, or vulgar — and the newest editions of the authoritative dictionaries fully sanction the use of can in requesting rights, privileges, or permission.
4. I will be happy to go to the dance with you. RIGHT. In informal speech, you need no longer worry about the delicate and unrealistic distinctions between shall and will. The theory of modern grammarians is that shall-will differences were simply invented... by the textbook writers of the 1800s. ...People who use **will** with I and we are speaking 100 per cent correct English.
  5. It is me. RIGHT. This violation of grammatical law has been completely sanctioned by current usage... Dr. A. H. Fuchs, a member of the editorial staff of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, wrote me recently: "We assure you that It is me has long been established as good colloquial speech".
  6. I **would** like to ask you a question. RIGHT. In current American usage, would may be used with I, though no die-hard purist will give an inch in this matter...\* Indeed, in modern speech, **should** is almost entirely restricted to expressing duty or probability.
  7. Her new novel is not as good as her first one. RIGHT. If you have studied formal grammar, you will recall that after a negative verb the "proper" word is so, not as. Is the rule observed by educated speakers? Hardly ever, I should say, unless they are of pedantic inclination.<sup>10</sup>
  8. **Who** are you waiting for? RIGHT. Formal grammar not only requires **whom** but demands that the word order be changed to: "For whom are you waiting?" **Who** is the normal, popular form as the first word of a sentence, no matter what the grammatical construction.<sup>11</sup>

*(From "Word power made easy"  
by Norman Lewis)*

And one last joke:

#### A Frenchman's Last Wish

A Frenchman was sent to prison for committing a crime. He was sentenced to death for committing a murder.

The fatal hour arrived. The prisoner's head was shaved. The priest, the lawyer and the warden had come to visit the prisoner in his cell.

"Do you want anything?" the lawyer asked the prisoner. "A glass of wine, perhaps?"

"No, thank you."

"Would you like a cigarette?"

"No."

"It is customary to grant (принято исполнять) the prisoner's last wish," the lawyer explained. "Your last wish will be granted. What is it?"

"I want to study English," the condemned man said.

And that brings us to the end of our little book "Reading for Profit and Pleasure".

Dear reader, if you have committed yourself to studying English and have "condemned" yourself to a life sentence and if you are at present "serving that sentence", ("отбываете это наказание") we sincerely hope this booklet has helped you to while away the time (скоротать время) with Profit and Pleasure!

And in conclusion — some advice.

We can tell you the secret of success. *There is no easy street.* (Легких путей нет.)

If you want to master English you've got to KEEP ON STUDYING!

And don't forget: *imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not. A sense of humour to console him for what he is.*

So KEEP ON SMILING!

