



VOCABULARY NOT TO BE FOOLED

1. Match the words and phrases related with April Fool's Day with their definitions. One definition defines two words.

b) wild-goose chase

a) practical joke

c) hoax

e) April foolery

d) prank

f) gullible

g) prankster

- 1) too ready to believe what other people tell you, so that you are easily tricked
- 2) silly behaviour on April Fool's Day
- 3) something intended to give someone a surprise or shock, or to make them look stupid
- 4) an attempt to make people believe something that is not true
- 5) a situation where you're looking for something that does not exist or that you are very unlikely to find, and you waste a lot of time
- 6) someone who plays tricks on people to make them look silly



2. Read about some of the most famous April Fool's Jokes and fill out the blanks with words and phrases from exercise 1. Be careful as some words and phrases are used twice and others are not needed at all.

Washing the Lions at the Tower of London

In 1860 many Londoners received an invitation to a ceremony of washing the lions at the Tower of London. By twelve o'clock on April 1 a large crowd had gathered outside the tower, but of course no lions were to be seen anywhere. Washing-the-lions is an early example of a "a) _____." It involves sending a victim on a fruitless quest in search of an item or event that does not exist.

San Serriffe

On 1 April 1977, the British newspaper The Guardian published a series of articles about San Serriffe, a small republic located in the Indian Ocean. The articles described this small nation and its several semi-colon-shaped islands. The two main islands were named Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. Its capital was Bodoni, and its leader was General Pica. Only a few readers noticed that everything about the island was named after printer's terminology. This b) _____ is believed to launch the enthusiasm for c) _____ in the British tabloids.

Burger King's Left-Handed Whopper

In 1998, fast food giant Burger King announced that that they were introducing the "left-handed Whopper" - a new sandwich for 32 million left-handed Americans. The condiments were rotated by 180 degrees for the left-handed customers. On the same day d) _____ customers ordered the new burgers and some specifically requested the "old", right-handed burger!

The Taco Liberty Bell

In 1996, the Taco Bell Corporation announced it had bought the Liberty Bell (an iconic symbol of American Independence) and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia (where the bell was housed) to express their anger. Taco Bell finally revealed that it was all a e) _____. The White House press secretary was asked about this sale on the same day. He responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold and would now be known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial...

3. Which prank is your favourite? Why?



Teacher's Notes and Answer Key

Ask your students to match the words and phrases related with All Fool's Day with their definitions. You may give out dictionaries if necessary. Check answers with the whole class.

Then, ask your students to read about some of the greatest April Fool's Jokes and to fill the missing words and phrases from exercise 1. Some vocabulary may need to be pre-taught depending on the level of students, e.g. *to perpetrate*, *condiments*, *to be credited with*. Liberty Bell and Lincoln Memorial may also need to be explained to students.

Answers

Exercise 1:

1g, 2d, 3a/c, 4b, 5e, 6f (there is no definition for "g) prankster")

All definitions used in this exercise have been taken or adapted from *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Exercise 2:

Washing the Lions at the Tower of London

a) *wild-goose chase*

San Serriffe

b) *hoax* [prank also possible]

c) *April foolery*

Burger King's Left-Handed Whopper

d) *gullible*

The Taco Liberty Bell

e) *practical joke*

Homework:

You may ask your students to find more April Fool's Jokes on the Internet. They will find many on www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool. You may ask students to retell their favourite hoax to the class and then vote the best hoax!