I'm not a robot

A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Have you ever appreciated a sunset?Were you alone or with someone special? Have you ever been a guest at a surprise party?Has anyone ever thrown a surprise party for you? Have you ever been in a fist fight? Have you ever been on TV? Have you ever been to a theatre? (Also spelling "theater.") Have you ever broken a bone? Have you ever broken up with someone? Have you ever called your boyfriend or girlfriend by the wrong name? Have you ever called your girlfriend/boyfriend "Honey?" Have you ever changed your appearance a lot in a short time? (For example, hair style, hair color or weight) Have you ever cheated on an exam? Have you ever cried in public and embarrassed yourself?Have you ever cried for no reason and felt good because of it? Have you ever dated someone from another race, culture or religion?Have you ever dated someone who didn't like you?Have you ever dated a relative by accident? Have you ever done something silly that you wish you had not done? Have you ever driven a sports car?Have you ever driven a truck? Have you ever eaten in a restaurant and realized you have no money with you? Have you ever finished eating in a restaurant, and you realized you forgot your wallet? Have you ever eaten something that you thought you wouldn't like, but found out that you actually liked it? Have you ever eaten frog legs?Have you ever eaten horse meat?Have you ever eaten French food? (Substitute other countries' food, too.) Have you ever fallen asleep and forgotten where you were? Have you ever fallen asleep while taking a bath? Have you ever fallen down the stairs? Have you ever fallen in love at first sight? Have you ever fallen or stumbled in front of others. Have you ever forgotten your mother's birthday?Father's?Girlfriend's?Boyfriend's?Husband's?Wife's? Have you ever given a false excuse to get out of something you didn't want to do? If so, tell us about it. Have you ever given a ring (or other jewelry) to your girlfriend/boyfriend? Have you ever gone mountain climbing? Have you ever gone skiing? Have you ever gone surfing? Have you ever dreamt of a ghost being in your bedroom and then waking up and finding yourself looking around for the ghost? Have you ever gone to greet a friend or family member then noticed it was someone else? Have you ever gotten sunburnt at the tanning saloon and gone back the next day? Have you ever had a Deja Vu experience? Have you ever made cheesecake?Have you ever made Chinese food? Have you ever roasted a turkey?Have you ever baked bread? Have you ever met a celebrity? Have you ever played a joke on one of your teachers?How about one of your classmates? Have you ever raised your hand to answer a question, then forgot what you were going to say? Have you ever received a present that you really hated?What was it?Why did you hate it?Who gave it to you? Have you ever regretted saying I love you? Have you ever ridden a horse? Have you ever ridden a motorcycle? Have you ever said yes when you meant no? Have you ever slept in a cave? Have you ever slept in a tent? Have you ever swum in the ocean? Have you ever talked to a famous person?Who was the person?How long did you talk?What did you talk about? Have you ever thought of something funny and started laughing out loud in the presence of others? Have you ever told a big lie to someone you love? Have you ever tried in-line skating? Have you ever tried riding a skateboard? Have you ever guessed someone's age wrong (younger or older)? How did the person respond? Have you ever been in the shower when there was an earthquake? Have you ever ripped off your pants while dancing? Have you ever kissed somebody by mistake? Have you ever laughed until tears came from your eyes? Have you ever fallen asleep while talking on the phone? Have you ever sprained your ankle/wrist? How did it happen? Have you ever written an article for a newspaper?If so, when was it and what was the article about? Have you ever seen a car accident? Have you ever called your school's principal? Have you ever received more than 10 cards on Valentines day? Have you ever been on the radio or television? Have you ever ridden on an ostrich? A camel? A cow? Have you ever shaken hands with a monkey? Have you ever received a love letter? Have you ever seen a tornado? Have you ever had an electricity blackout while taking a shower? Have you ever picked you're nose in public? Have you ever been on the radio? T.V? Have you ever ridden on an ostrich? Have you ever milked a cow? Have you ever built an igloo? Have you ever tried any extreme sports? Have you ever shot a gun at a tree or a target? Have you ever played an instrument in public? Have you ever sung in public? Have you ever talked "baby-talk" to your pet? Have you ever given special nicknames to your pet that were completely different than their first given name? Have you ever kept special treats for your pet? Have you ever kept a special blanket or bed for your pet to sleep on? Have you ever let your pet sleep in or on your bed with you? Have you ever hitchhiked? Have you ever fainted? Have you ever been mugged? Have you ever played in a movie? Have you ever called a female teacher "mum" by mistake? Have you ever wanted to eat toothpaste? Have you ever been to a funeral? Have you ever been to a wedding? whose was it? Did the bride wear a white dress or a traditional clothing? Have you ever been trapped in an elevator? Have you ever made somebody cry? Have you ever seen your mother / your father cry? Have you ever fired a gun? Have you ever been inside a police car? Have you ever had to dial 911/111/119... (emergency services)? Have you ever fainted in a public place? Have you ever wondered why Asians can't speak English? Have you ever walked into a window because it was just that clean? Have you ever met someone who has six fingers? Have you ever cook for more than 20 people? Have you ever traveled without paying for the ticket? Have you ever sung in public? Have you ever been outside your comfort zone? How did you feel? What is your comfort zone? When do you feel the most comfortable? Have you ever walked into a lamppost? Have you ever wondered why some people want to be alone but never seem to be lonely? Why do you think this is so? Have you ever tried to eat food without first spitting out your chewing gum? Have you ever saved a piece of chewed chewing gum and started chewing it again later? Have you ever called a 'he' she or a 'she' a 'he?' What was the response? Have you ever called a women sir or a Man "ma'am?" Have you ever asked a woman when she was "due" and she wasn't even pregnant? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Thanks to Erica Box who suggested this topic and contributed the first 17 questions in February 2002. Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal Page 5 Return to iteslj.org/games.Intonation Fun Level: Medium Use this activity to underline the importance of intonation when your students, as they often do, talk like robots. Basically, get them to say the words in quotation marks in the contexts that follow. 'Hello' to a friend to a friend you haven't seen for 3 years to a neighbour that you don't like to a 6 month old baby to someone you have just found doing something they shouldn't to someone on the phone when you're not sure if they are still on the other end 'Goodbye' to a member of your family as they are going through the boarding gate at the airport to someone who has been annoying you to a child starting his very first day at school 'How are you?' to someone you haven't seen for 20 years to someone who has recently lost a member of the family to someone who didn't sleep in their own bed last night 'I never go to pubs' by a person that totally disapproves of drinking alcohol to someone who often goes to pubs as a response to someone who has told you they sometimes go to pubs said before: '﹐but I quite like discos.' 'What have you done?' to someone who claims to have fixed your television only that now it's worse than before to someone who is scolding you for not doing anything when you suspect the same about them. to someone who has just done something very bad and which has serious consequences Truth or Lie? Level: Any Level This isn't really new. I got the idea from a book and have expanded on it a bit. It can be used at any level from pre-int. up. It can be used just for speaking practice but it's particularly useful if you're doing present perfect for past experiences. It works soooo well! The students just love it! Lots of question and past tense practice. Even the quiet ones will talk! Based on a group of three (it can be done in pairs, or fours if you write some more questions), each student has a piece of paper with five questions on it (see below) and takes it in turns to ask the person on their left one of their questions. The student answering the question must answer 'Yes I have.' regardless of the truth. The student who asked the question can then ask as many further questions as he likes in order to help him decide whether the truth is being told or not. Obviously, sometimes they'll be telling the truth. The third student can also join in with questions, thereby 'ganging up' on student B. Listen how students fabricate stories in an attempt to avoid questions! When the first student feels he's heard enough he says 'No further questions' and writes 'True' or 'False' next to the question. The game then carries on (student B asks a question to student C and so on) When all the questions have been asked the papers are passed to the left for marking i.e. the truth is revealed. The highest score out of five wins. This game will really open your eyes to people's ability to LIE. Here are the questions. You can use different ones, obviously. Have you ever﹐ spoken to a famous person? danced on a table in a public place? been trapped in a lift? taken an illegal drug? sung karaoke? Have you ever﹐ appeared on television? left a bar or restaurant without paying? written graffiti on a wall? appeared in a photograph in a newspaper? chased a criminal? Have you ever﹐ done a very dangerous sport? won a medal or trophy? missed a flight? stayed in a five-star hotel? swum naked in the sea? A typical exchange might be something like: - Have you ever swum naked in the sea? - Yes I have. - Where did you do it? - Erm. On holiday in Majorca. - Who were you with? - Some friends. - What were their names? - Erm...etc. Submitted by Bradley George Syllable Game Level: Medium Write a difficult word on the board for example ACCOMMODATION. Then clap your hands while saying the word. Repeat as necessary. Then ask them to count the claps in ACCOMMODATION. There are 5 handclaps. Get students to clap and say ACCOMMODATION. Tell students these handclaps are called SYLLABLES and that every word breaks down into one or more syllables. Briefly practice saying "syllables." On the board underneath ACCOMMODATION draw 5 medium sized boxes. Put the correct number underneath each box. Clap and say the first syallable of ACCOMMODATION and ask your students which letters should go in box 1. They should say AC (some might say ACC.)Repeat this process until all of the letters are in the correct boxes. So now you should have Box1 AC Box2 COM box3 MO Box4 DA Box5 TION Then choral drill the letters like this. Teacher: Which letters are in Box1? Students: AC Teacher: and in Box2? Students: COM Continue this until all 5 boxes (syllables) have been covered. Then ask a student to give you the contents of BOX1 and 2. Then ask another to give you the contents of box 2 and 3. Then 3 and 4. then 4 and 5. This gradual building of the word helps them not only to understand the rhythm and concept of syllables, but also helps them to fix the spelling in their minds. Once they grasp the concept of syllables, Write some 3,2, single syllable words on the board and get the students to work out how many syllables the word has, and then get them to put the letters into the correct boxes Submitted by Gary Pownall. Greenwich Community College. London. UK Karaoke Level: Difficult -for larger classes Preparation: choose songs that are easy to understand and somewhat enjoyable. 1. Divide the students up into groups of 4-5 people. 2. Give each group a different song. Have them figure out all the words to the song. Make sure that not just one person is doing the work, but that it is a group effort. 3. Give them the entire class (one hour) to work on it. Next class, have them return to their groups to practice one time. 4. You then have the group as a whole, stand up and sing along with the recording. -this is fun for the students if they all participate and work together. -choose both popular and silly songs to keep their attention and interest Submitted by Melanie Dutton, University of Texas at El Paso Getting To Know You Level: Medium to Difficult -for larger classes 1. Give each student an idex card 2. Have the students pair up and write the name of their partner on their card.Give them five or six questions that they must ask each other such as: -Where were you born? -What is your favorite color and why? -What did you dream last night? 3. Make sure that they write down the answers to these questions on their card. When they are done, have them each choose a new partner. 4. They will then tell their new partner about their old partner based on the questions answered. Each person will record this information on the other side on the index card (the index card is only to help them remember everything). 5. Once they have finished, they each stand up in front of the class and tell everyone what they learned about one of their classmates. -this helps them to develop their communication skills and helps them get comfortable with speaking and interacting with all the students in the class Submitted by Melanie Dutton Extreme Situations Level: Medium to Difficult The point of this activity is to make difficult questions involving choosing a course of action in extreme situations.Usually This situations will involve feelings, prejudices, ethics,,etc. Examples 1: You are on a deserted island. There is a motor boat and you are the only one who knows how to drive it. It is up to you to decide which people of the following people you are going to take with you in the boat. There is space for only you and 3 more people. Here they are: a prostitute a drug addict a dying old man a doctor convicted of malpractice a child pornographer a convicted criminal (Note: You should adjust the list to suit the students in your class. Delete some if you find them offensive. Add others that you think would generate good discussion.) Example 2: You find a wallet with $50,000 and the ID of its owner. That money is exactly the amount of money you need to cover the expenses of a delicate operation for your daughter. She needs that operation to survive. What would you do with the money? And you can create new extreme questions to challenge students to speak. Submitted by Pablo Ortega Ju﹐rez portegaj63$$$hotmail.com SPOT THE DIFFERENCE Level: Medium to Difficult Divide the group in pairs.For this activity you get two apparently iqual pictures.You can get this pictures in puzzle books or internet. Give one of the pictures to a student an the counter-picture to his/her partner. Make the students sit far from his/her partner in order to describe the picture without looking at the counterpicture. The point of the game is to detect the differences without using body language or looking at the partner's counter-picture. The team that finds all the differences first is the winner. This activity is specially good for those students who are reluctant to speak. Submitted by Pablo Ortega Ju﹐rez portegaj63$$$hotmail.com More Games & Activities To keep this page's filesize reasonable, we occasionally move things to other pages. Copyright (C) 1998-2002 by The Internet TESL Journal A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Is it always necessary to complain? When is it appropriate to complain in a restaurant? What do you think of the saying, "The customer is always right."? What do you say to someone to complain about bad service in a store or restaurant? Have you ever gotten angry at a worker in a store or a restaurant? What are some reasons why we might need to complain in a store or restaurant? What are some reasons why you would not complain about bad service? Do you prefer to make a complaint over the telephone or in person? When is it necessary to write a letter of complaint? Is it common in your country to complain about bad service? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Related: Fruits and Vegetables, Vegetarian, Diets, Food & Eating, Tipping How often do you eat out? Where do you usually go when you eat out? How much do you usually pay when you eat out? Who do you usually go with when you eat out? Do you like western food? Can you name restaurants in this area that serve food from other countries?What kinds of foods do these restaurants serve?Have you ever eaten at any of them? Do you ever eat greasy food? Do you know how to order food in English?Have you ever done so?If so, was it easy to do so? Do you ever eat at McDonalds? KFC? Other fast food restaurants? What is your favorite appetizer? Do you ever drink alcoholic beverages when you eat out?If so, what do you drink? Do you know what a Caesar salad is? Buffalo wings? Nachos? Chicken fried steak? Did you enjoy eating out in other countries you have visited?Which country had the best food?Which foods did you enjoy the most?Did you think the cost was high or low? Do you know anyone who has owned a restaurant? Have you ever worked in a restaurant?If so, what kind of restaurant?How long did you work there?Did you enjoy your job? How many different types of salad dressing can you name? Do you worry about calories and fat content when you eat out?How about cholesterol ?How about insecticides and other chemicals in your food? Would you send a dish back if it did not taste good or if you received the wrong food? Do you ever leave a tip at a restaurant? How much? In what ways have people's eating habits changed over the years?How have your eating habits changed over the years? Have your eating habits change this last year? Do you think western food is too expensive? Why or why not? Have you ever had a restaurant cater a party at your house?If not, would you consider it?If so, were you happy with the service?Would you do it again?What kind of food did they serve? Who pays when you go out for dinner? What's the worst experience you ever had at a restaurant? What's the most disgusting food you ever ate in a restaurant? Do you like eating at buffets? Why or why not?Where was the best buffet you've ever eaten at?What kinds of foods were there? Have you ever eaten at an all you can eat restaurant?Did you eat too much?Do you think it was a good value?Was the taste as good as a regular restaurant? Why do you think westerners are usually heavier than Asians? Do you ever order out from a restaurant? Do you think this area has a good variety of foreign restaurants? What other kinds of restaurants would you like to see opened? Can kids eat free at any of the restaurants you go to?Do senior citizens get a discount?Are there times of the day when anyone can get a discount? Have you ever been to a restaurant with valet service? Do you like to try new restaurants, or do you prefer to go to those you have already been to? Why? Do you care what a restaurant looks like, or is the food the only thing you care about? What types of take out food do you enjoy eating? What do you think about children crying in a restaurant when you are trying to eat? What do you think about people smoking in a restaurant when you are trying to eat?What would you think if you saw the cook at the restaurant smoking while he is cooking your food? Do you prefer fresh ingredients prepared by a chef as you order or do you prefer pre-cooked food? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Copyright(C) 1997-2005 by The Internet TESL Journal First click Restaurant Row to get to the home page. Then, in the upper left hand corner of the restaurantrow.com page type Chicago into the city or zip window. Then click GO. There are three cities called Chicago. Click Chicago, IL. There are more than 1500 restaurants in Chicago, IL. Go to the All Cuisines window, click the arrows on the right side of the window, choose Japanese, and click go. Now we can see the names, addresses, and the telephone mumbers of more than ten Japanese restaurants. We can click to see menus, photos, maps, directions, and reviews of each restaurant. First click Restaurant Row to get to the home page. Then, from the left side of the page under OTHER SEARCHES click NEIGHBORHOOD. Then click on San Francisco. On this page there are a lot of things to select and click. In the Select your neighborhood window select Japantown. In the How many miles will you travel? window select 1. (One mile is about a twenty minute walk.) In the What cuisine would you like? window select Seafood. In the What Ambience would you prefer? window select Great Views. In the Any special features you'd like? window select Credit Cards. In the How about entertainment? window select Live Music. Finally, click search. We have found at least one restaurant. If we want to find more we could go back and click a bigger number for the How many miles will you travel? window. A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Related: Restaurants, Fruits and Vegetables, Diets, Food & Eating Do you know any vegetarians? Do you think restaurants should offer one or two vegetarian dishes on their menu? What are the different kinds of vegetarians? Could you try vegetarianism for a month? Could you try vegetarianism for a week? Could you try vegetarianism for a full day? If someone eats cheese and drinks milk, are they vegetarian? If someone wears leather shoes or a fur coat, can they call themselves "vegetarian"? What is the difference between a vegan and a vegetarian? What is the most logical reason for becoming a vegetarian? What would you prepare for a vegetarian coming for dinner at your home? (appetizer, main dish, dessert and beverage) What meal would you miss the most if you became vegetarian? What would be a great meal you would prepare for yourself as a vegetarian? Would you go to a vegetarian restaurant for dinner? What would be more difficult to eat, a strange new vegetable, or an exotic piece of meat? What are the proven benefits of eating meat? Have you ever considered becoming a vegetarian? Would you marry a vegetarian if it meant you could not cook meat at home? Do you know any famous vegetarians? (Albert Einstein, Avril Lavigne, Buddha, Clint Eastwood) What is a better reason for becoming a vegetarian; health reasons or animal rights? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Thanks to Sarah Mulvey who suggested this topic and contributed the first 20 questions in November 2011. Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal The Internet TESL Journal David Dockhornddtraveller [at] yahoo.comSarakhampittyakhom High School (Mahasalakham, Thailand) This is a conversation activity that focuses on making invitations and requests in the context of dining at a restaurant. My Thai students are normally very shy to speak but they love to do this activity. The students play the roles of customers, waiters/waitresses, and managers in a restaurant. This gets the students speaking spontaneously and all at the same time. It's something they really like and you can do it again and again and add to it and really refine their language until they are quite fluent in making requests and invitations. It also gives them an understanding of the vocabulary surrounding restaurants and the cultural context of dining in an English speaking country. Step One If your students are unfamiliar with requests language then teach the language of making requests.Would you like...?Do you want...?Yes, I would.Yes, I do.Then after drilling and going through some examples like "Would you like to go to the movies?" and "Would you like some french fries?", etc.Step Two Run your students through the process of dining in a restaurant in an English speaking country. I simplify it a bit for my 12-13 year olds and tell them to do the following. order drinks.order an appetizerorder food (the main course)order desertask for the checkExplain the language associated with these steps for the waiter and customer. For example, Waiter: "Welcome to Dave's Restaurant. Tonight the special is monkey brains. Can I start you off with something to drink?"Customer: "Why yes, I'd like some milk."Teach the students about problems at restaurants as well such as; bad or slow service, rude waiters, cold food, a fly in the food, a rat in the restaurant, etc.Also, explain some language regarding forgetting to bring your money or not having enough money to pay the bill. This is the most fun part for the students, complaining about the restaurant and not having enough money so this is an important part to make sure they understandxs.Step Three Write down the name of the restaurant on the whiteboard, the daily specials, and some menu items and prices.Choose an assistant manager and ask them to pick some waiters.Give your waiters a quick reminder on their initial greeting to give guests and send them out to their tables.Have your assistant manager help with any slow or bad service complaints and wander around to make sure the students are participating and help pacify customers who are upset with the cold food and bad service. My students love this activity because they love to complain about the bad service, etc. and see the manager reprimand the waiter for being rude or slow. Also, most of the tables end up not having money to pay for the bill and have to wash dishes or the police have to be called.This activity may degenerate if some of the tables have gotten their checks and these students start to play or kick-box with their waiters. At this point you can promote your best waiter to be the assistant manager and pick some new waiters. Usually I let the assistant manager pick but I also pick students who aren't participating or are causing a ruckus.Repeat Then run through it again. The students also enjoy outrageous menu items like monkey brains, buffalo steak, human pizza, etc. and extremely high prices. The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. IX, No. 10, October 2003 The Internet TESL Journal Emma de Dios Álvarezdediose [at] lia.uva.es of Valladolid (Valladolid, Spain) Students' inadequate knowledge of the world is reflected not only in their lack of foreign language skills, but also in their general ignorance of basic information about other peoples and nations. One of the important problems language instructors face is the teaching of a foreign culture. The Internet is an excellent way to approach the issue due to following reasons: The texts are written for native speakers and not adapted to the students' level.The students are the center of attention, and not the instructor.The gathering of information is dynamic. After first introducing the students to the basics of computers and the Internet, the following three-part lesson provides practice in the classroom. In class, teach the most important vocabulary related to food in English speaking countries. Also, do not forget to deal with different habits or beliefs.The second part of this lesson is practical, allowing the students to surf the Web with the instructor's guidance. Students are provided with several exercises aimed at pointing out differences between the two cultures.The third part requires the students to get involved in cooking food. After studying English for a long time, you finally have the opportunity to go to New York City with your class. One of the first things you would like to do is taste the local cuisine. Thus, you are going to read one of these two web pages of restaurants in New York City in order to know what kind of food you are going to find. Before reading the web page, think of the kind of information you are likely to find. Answer yes or no to the following statements. Talk to a classmate and find out what he/she thinks. Then, ask your instructor. ____ You usually leave 10 to 15% of the total bill as a tip for the waiter/waitress.____ Lunch and dinner take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. respectively.____ Very frequently people say grace before they begin to eat.____ You need not make reservations to dine at a restaurant on weekends.____ Men usually sit down at the table before women do.____ People ask for permission before leaving the table.____ The host serves himself first and then he serves his guests.____ It is considered polite to leave the table before everyone else is done.____ Desserts are never eaten.____ The most important meal is lunch. Choose one of the web addresses provided below. this out with the information you have found on the page. Name of the restaurant _____Postal address _____Telephone number _____E-mail address _____Schedule _____Fill this out with what you plan to eat. LunchAppetizer _____Soup _____Pasta _____Fish _____Meat _____Dessert _____DinnerAppetizer _____Soup _____Pasta _____Fish _____Meat _____Dessert _____Write a list of the differences you can find when comparing American and Spanish restaurants (opening hours, prices or kind of food for example). You will compare your list with the rest of the class later on. For next week, choose one of the recipes you can find on the following page. For this purpose, go to the "most recent recipes" section. Click on one. Read it carefully and look up any words you may not know. Cook it at home. Then, bring it to class so that we can know whether you are a good cook or not! The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. VII, No. 3, March 2001 Teachers often use jokes in the ESL/EFL classroom to teach culture, grammar and vocabulary. If you know a joke that works well with ESL/EFL students, please submit the joke. Home | Articles | Lessons | Techniques | Questions | Games | Jokes | Things for Teachers | Links | Activities for ESL Students Newest Jokes | Short Jokes | Riddles | Puns | Long Jokes | Misuse of English (This is guaranteed laughs in the Chinese classroom. It was originally a bit in a Pink Panther movie). A man walks into a shop and sees a cute little dog. He asks the shopkeeper, "Does your dog bite?" The shopkeeper says, "No, my dog does not bite." The man tries to pet the dog and the dog bites him. "Ouch!" He says, "I thought you said your dog does not bite!" The shopkeeper replies, "That is not my dog!" Submitted by Rick Bell There were three restaurants on the same block. One day one of them put up a sign which said "The Best Restaurant in the City." The next day, the largest restaurant on the block put up a larger sign which said "The Best Restaurant in the World." On the third day, the smallest restaurant put up a small sign which said "The Best Restaurant on this Block." Submitted by Jim J. Johnson A lorry driver is driving 200 penguins to London Zoo when his lorry breaks down on the motorway. The driver gets out of the cab and is looking at the engine when a second lorry driver stops in front of him and asks if he needs help. The penguins' driver explains that he is taking the penguins to the zoo and asks if the other man would take the penguins there. He agrees. Some hours later, the 2nd lorry driver drives past the first one, who is still waiting on the motorway. The penguins are still on the lorry, and look happy. "I thought I asked you to take those penguins to the zoo," shouted the first driver. The second replied, "I did, but I had some money left, so we're going to the cinema now." (Present continuous / just for fun) Submitted by Jeremy Hookway One day a student was taking a very difficult essay exam. At the end of the test, the prof asked all the students to put their pencils down and immediately hand in their tests. The young man kept writing furiously, although he was warned that if he did not stop immediately he would be disqualified. He ignored the warning, finished the test 10 minutes later, and went to hand the test to his instructor. The instructor told him he would not take the test. The student asked, "Do you know who I am?" The prof said, "No and I don't care." The student asked again, "Are you sure you don't know who I am?" The prof again said no. So the student walked over to the pile of tests, placed his in the middle, then threw the papers in the air. "Good" the student said, and walked out. He passed. Submitted by Mary Cobb Neighbors A woman got on a bus, holding a baby. The bus driver said, "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen." In a huff, the woman slammed her fare into the fare box and took an aisle seat near the rear of the bus. The man seated next to her sensed that she was agitated and asked her what was wrong. "The bus driver insulted me," she fumed. The man sympathized and said, "Why, he's a public servant and shouldn't say things to insult passengers." "You're right," she said. "I think I'll go back up there and give him a piece of my mind." "That's a good idea," the man said. "Here, let me hold your monkey." Submitted by Abu Abdulaziz (Kuwait) James was walking down the road one morning when he met his friend Danny. "Morning, Danny. Er ... Danny, you're wearing a glove on one hand and none on the other. Did you know?" "Yes, well I heard the weather forecast this morning, you see." "The Weather forecast?" "Yes, the weather forecast. the forecaster said on the one hand it might be fine but on the other hand there might be some rain." (Cantonese students have problems with "on the other hand" because there is a similar expression in Cantonese that means "in addition". This joke helps highlight the contrast implied.) Submitted by Dick Tibbetts, Macau This worked fine with my level 200a on up. A man got a parrot which could already talk. It had belonged to a sailor and had a big vocabulary. However, the man soon discovered that the parrot mostly know bad words. At first he thought it was funny, but then it became tiresome, and finally, when the man had important guests, the bird's bad words embarrassed him very much. As soon as the guests left, the man angrily shouted at the parrot,"That language must stop!". But the bird answered him with curses. He shook the bird and shouted again, "Don't use those ugly words!" Again the bird cursed him. Now the man was really angry. He grabbed the parrot and threw him into the refrigerator. But it had no effect. From inside the refrigerator,the parrot was still swearing. He opened the door and took him out, and again the bird spoke in dirty words and curses. This time, the man opened the door of the freezer , threw the bird into it, and closed the door. This time there was silence. After two minutes, the man opened the door and removed the very cold parrot. Slowly the shivering parrot walked up the man's arm, sat on his shoulder and spoke into his ear, sounding very frightened: "I'll be good, I promise...Those chickens in there.. what did they say?" Submitted by Peggy Datz I think this joke is funny and so far, all of my intermediate to advanced ESL classes have agreed with me. A duck walks into a bar and goes up to the bartender. The bartender says "What can I get you?" Duck: Umm. Do you have any grapes? Bartender (looking surprised and finding the question odd): No, I'm afraid we don't. And the duck waddles slowly out of the bar. The next day at the same time, the duck waddles into the bar, hops up on a bar stool. Bartender: Hi. What can I get for you? Duck: Umm. Do you have any grapes? Bartender (a little annoyed): Hey! Weren't you in here yesterday. Look buddy, we don't have any grapes. OK? The duck hops off the stool and waddles out the door. The next day, at the same time, the bartender is cleaning some glasses when he hears a familiar voice Duck: Umm.. Do you have any grapes? The bartender is really ticked off. Bartender: Look. What's your problem? You came in here yesterday asking for grapes, I TOLD you, WE DON'T HAVE ANY GRAPES!! Next time I see your little ducktail waddle in here I'm going to nail those little webbed feet of yours to the floor. GOT me pal? And the duck hops off the bar stool and waddles out. The NEXT day at the same time, the duck waddles into the bar, walks up to the bartender and the bartender says, "What the heck do YOU want?" Umm. do you have any nails? What!? OF course not. Oh. Well, do you have any grapes? ---- I taught my students waddle, webbed feet but you could teach What the heck do you want, pal, barkeep, bartender, etc It is also good to review "any" A man's dog has a problem so he takes him to the vet's. The vet looks at the dog and says that he'll have to take him to the examining room. In the examining room, he takes a cat out of a cage and lets the cat walk all over the dog, but the dog doesn't do anything. The doctor say "Your dog is dead." The man goes out to the receptionist and asks for his bill. "That'll be $325" says the receptionist. "What! $325? How's that possible?" "It's $25 for the consultation, and $300 for the Cat scan." NOTE: The students might not recognise the word CAT scan. Submitted by Christine MacBrien (as told to her by her brother Dave in Toronto The two beginning ESL students went to Honolulu on holiday. Soon they began to argue about the correct way to pronounce the word "Hawaii." One student insisted that it's Hawaii, with a "w" sound. The other student said it was pronounced like "Havaii," with a "v" sound. Finally, they saw an old native on the beach, and asked him which was correct. The old man said it's "Havaii." The student who was right was very happy, and thanked the old man. The old man said "you're welcome." Submitted by: Brian Madden Every day, an ESL teacher was seen coming out of the rest room with a marker, used for writing. In the rest room were expressions and graffitti written on the walls. It was very bad. Finally, the Director of the school called the teacher into the office and told the teacher that it was terrible of him to write those things on the walls. The teacher said that he was not the one writing those things. All that the teacher did was to correct the grammar. Submitted by: Brian Madden "Dad, I don't want to go to school today." said the boy. "Why not, son?" "Well, one of the chickens on the school farm died last week and we had chicken soup for lunch the next day. Then three days ago one of the pigs died and we had roast pork the next day." "But why don't you want to go today?" "Because our English teacher died yesterday!" A man was driving at 80 kph one day when he was passed by a 3-legged chicken. He accelerated and passed the chicken. Three minutes later the chicken passed him again as he was driving at 100 kph. The man tried to catch the chicken but it ran down a side road. The man followed it into a farmyard but couldn't find it anywhere. He saw the farmer and told him the story and the man asked for an explanation. The farmer said that he, his wife and his son all liked chicken legs so he bred 3-legged chickens. "What do they taste like?" asked the man. "I don't know", replied the farmer, "we haven't caught one yet" Submitted by: Alastair Rice This one will perhaps only be good for your more advanced students. A piece of string walks into a bar and asks for a drink. The barman refuses to serve him saying rudely, 'Sorry but we don't serve the likes of you. Get out!' The piece of string leaves the bar feeling glum, he walks down the road and then he sees two girls who he asks for help. 'Please,' he says to one of the girls, would you tie a knot in me?' This she does. 'Please,' the piece of string says to the other girl,'would you mind taking your comb and fluffing out the ends of my string?' so the girl obliges. 'Thank you' says the string and he turns around, goes back into the bar and immediately orders a drink again. The barman looks at him quizzically and says 'aren't you the piece of string that was in here a moment ago?' 'No' came the answer, 'I'm a frayed knot.' Submitted by: Catherine Three rich brothers each wanted to do something special for their elderly mother on Mother's Day. The first brother bought her a huge house. The second brother gave her a limousine, with a driver. The third brother remembered that his mother used to love to read the Bible, but couldn't see well anymore, so he got her a specially trained parrot that could recite any verse from the Bible on demand. Soon, the brothers received thank-you notes from their mother. The first son's note said, "The house you bought me is much too big! I only live in a small part of it, but I have to clean the whole thing!" The second son got a note that said, "I rarely leave the house anymore, so I hardly use the limo you gave me. And when I do use it, the driver is so rude!" The third son's note said, "My darling baby boy, you know just what your mother loves! The chicken was delicious!" Teaching Notes: We previewed some of the vocabulary, such as limousine, trained, delicious, and gave a printed copy of the joke to the students as part of a reading activity. We knew they were finished when they started chuckling. If the reference to the Bible would be inappropriate for your class, you might adapt the joke by substituting "the classics") Submitted by: Eve Ross George was taking care of a parrot for his aunt. This parrot was a very nasty parrot. It cussed and screamed and made fun of George, so he took the parrot and put it in the freezer. The parrot kept screaming and insulting George until finally it stopped. George thought to himself, "On no! I froze my aunt's bird to death." He opened the door and saw the bird alive! The bird said, "I'm sorry for my behaviour and will never act up again. George said, "Why the change?" The bird answered, "Because I saw what you did to the other bird. (HInt: He saw the frozen chicken.) Submitted by Erin McCluskey A preacher was told by his doctor that he had only a few weeks left to live. He went home feeling very sad, and when his wife heard the sad news she said to him, "Honey, if there's anything I can do to make you happy, tell me." The preacher answered, "You know, dear, there's that box in the kitchen cabinet with what you always called "your little secret" in it and you said you never would want me to open it as long as you lived. Now that I'm about to go home to be with the Lord, why don't you show me what's in that secret box of yours?" The preacher's wife got out the box and opened the lid. It contained $100,000 and three eggs. "What are those eggs doing in the box?" the preacher asked. "Well, Honey," she replied, "every time your sermon was really bad I put an egg in the box." Now the preacher had been preaching for over forty years, and seeing only three eggs in that old shoe box, he started to feel very proud about himself and it warmed his soul. "And what about that $100.000?"" he asked. "Oh, you see," she whispered softly, "every time there were a dozen eggs in the box, I ..sold them." Submitted by Tim Allen, Switzerland A man goes out of prison after twenty years. He decides to go back to the neighbourhood where he lived. When he gets there he cannot recognize the place. Everything has changed a lot. The places he used to visit have all disappeared. Even the pub has disappeared.He is very tired and would like to have something to eat. He goes into a small café and has a coffee and a sandwich.When he takes out his wallet he finds a shoemaker ticket in it. He then remembers that the last thing he had done before being arrested was to take a pair of shoes to the shoemaker's. He decides to go there and try. What a wondeful thing! The shoemaker is still at the same place. He gets into the shop and tells the shoemaker that about twenty years before he had left him a pair of shoes to have them repaired. The shoemaker has a look at the ticket and says: "O.K. Come back tomorrow. They will be ready then." Some things never change. Submitted by Christine MAZEAU I was once told by a Japanese student that this is an old story. One Saturday afternoon the grasshopper, the snail, and the centipede were sitting around the grasshopper's house drinking beer. They ran out of beer before they were ready to quit drinking, so they decided one of them should go out for more beer. The snail said, "I'd go, but I'm kind of slow. Besides, Grasshopper, this is your neighborhood so you know where to go." The grasshopper said, "I don't mind going, but my hopping will shake up the beer and we'll get sprayed every time we open one." So they decided to send the centipede; and the grasshopper explained how to get to the nearest liquor store. An hour or so passed and still the centipede hadn't returned, so the snail and the grasshopper decided to go look for him. They got as far as the the front door and found the centipede sitting there putting on his shoes. Submitted by Rodney A. Hoiseth - Roth Corporation This joke never fails to get a laugh. A man slow witted man walked into a pattent office. He walked up to the patent officer and said, "Hey, I've got a new idea for a mouse trap." (Draw a box on the blackboard.) "Here's the box." (Draw a hole in the box.) "Here's the hole." (Draw a circle in the bottom of the hole) "Here's the cheese." (Draw a line across the hole in the box.) "Here's the blade. The mouse sticks his head in the holeto get the cheese, the blade drops on his neck and kills him." The patent officer looks at the diagram. He understands that the man is a little slow so he wants to be kind. He explains to the man that he does not think the design is ready to be patented yet. He tells the man, "Please, work on it some more. Perhaps I will be able to patent it another time." The slow witted man says thank you and leaves the office. One week later the slow witted man shows up again. (Draw the exact same example on the board in exactly the same way.) The slow witted man says, "This is the box, this is the hole, this is the cheese and this is the wire. The mouse sticks his head in the hole to get the cheese, the wire wraps around his neck and kills him." The patent officer, still trying to be kind, makes the same excuse as before. The slow witted man leaves. One week later the slow witted man returns. He approaches the same pattent officer and says, (The exact same things) "Here's the box. Here's the hole. (This time he draws a zig-zag line across the hole and he does not draw a circle for the cheese.) After completing the zig-zag line, the slow witted man proclaims, "and here's the saw blade." The patent officer notices the design and the fact that that ther is no cheese. He asks the slow witted man, "Where's the cheese." "Ah-ha," says the slow witted man. "That's the point. The mouse sticks his head in the hole and says," "Where did you put the cheese." (When the mouse speeks you must act like the mouse. Stick your head out as if looking into the trap and swing it back and forth as if looking for the cheese.) The implication is that the mouse will saw off his own head while looking for the cheese. Remember the saw blade? Submitted by Karl Hartman An American lawyer invited a Czechoslovakian friend to stay with him in his mountain cabin. Early in the morning, the lawyer and his Czechoslovakian friend went out to pick berries for their morning breakfast. As they were picking blueberries, along came two big Bears - a male and a female. The lawyer, seeing the two bears, climbed a tree. His friend wasn't so lucky and the male bear caught him and swallowed him whole. The lawyer drove his car to town as fast has he could to get a policeman. The policeman took his gun and ran to the berry patch with the lawyer. Sure enough, the two bears were still there. "He's in THAT one!" said the lawyer, pointing to the male. The policeman looked at the bears, took careful aim with his gun, and SHOT THE FEMALE. "What did you do that for!" shouted the lawyer, "I said he was in the other bear!" "Exactly," answered the policeman. "Would YOU believe a lawyer who told you that the Czech was in the Male?" (The check is in the mail.) Submitted by Bonnie P. A man wanted to become a monk so he went to the monastery and talked to the head monk. The head monk said, "You must take a vow of silence and can only