

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Reading jokes

Do you know any good jokes?

- Read the *Joke Collection*, checking the *Punch Lines* where you need to.
- Which one made you laugh the most?
Which one made you groan the most!?
- Learn four or five of your favourite jokes off by heart. Practise telling them!

2. Shaggy dog stories

Read all about shaggy dog stories – a special kind of joke.

- Choose one of the shaggy dog stories provided and prepare to tell it to an audience. Read the *Advice on telling a shaggy dog story*.

3. Telling jokes and stories out loud

Some people are very good at telling jokes.

- Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMIjkqZFN9o> and watch some children telling jokes.
- Think about what made some of the children such good joke tellers.
- Use what you learned by watching the children and from the suggestions on *Telling Jokes* to tell your family and friends the best jokes you read earlier.

Now try this Fun-Time Extra

- On *A funny thing happened the other day*, draw and write about a time something really funny happened to you.

Joke Collection

What is a glow-worm's favourite food?

Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?

What did the cruel chef do?

Why are giraffes happy to have long necks?

How do monkeys make toast?

Why don't bugs have bad breath?

What is the biggest mouse in the world?

What does the word 'minimum' mean?

On which day do giants eat people?

What do you call a donkey with only three legs?

How do you stop a dog digging in your garden?

What did the nose shout out at the auditions for the school play?

What did one toilet say to the other toilet?

What do you get if you cross a spider and an elephant?

Why wasn't there any food left after the witch's party?

What do you get if a giant steps on Batman and Robin?

Why did the banana go to the doctors?

Punch Lines

What is a glow-worm's favourite food?

Anything, so long as it is a light snack!

Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?

To get to the bottom!

What did the cruel chef do?

He beat the eggs and whipped the cream!

Why are giraffes happy to have long necks?

Because they've got horribly smelly feet!

How do monkeys make toast?

They put the bread under the gorilla!

Why don't bugs have bad breath?

Because they use moth-wash every day!

What is the biggest mouse in the world?

The hippopotomouse!

What does the word 'minimum' mean?

It means really small mother!

On which day do giants eat people?

Chewsday!

What do you call a donkey with only three legs?

A wonkey!

How do you stop a dog digging in your garden?

Take away his spade!

What did the nose shout out at the auditions for the school play?

Pick me! Pick me!

What did one toilet say to the other toilet?

Are you alright? You look flushed!

What do you get if you cross a spider and an elephant?

I have no idea, but if you see one on the ceiling move out of the way in case it lands on you!

Why wasn't there any food left after the witch's party?

Because everyone there was a goblin!

What do you get if a giant steps on Batman and Robin?

Flatman and Ribbon!

Why did the banana go to the doctors?

He wasn't peeling very well!

Shaggy Dog Stories



Shaggy dog stories are a special sort of joke. Like normal jokes, they have a funny punch line that either makes you laugh or groan, but they are much longer than standard jokes. No one really knows why they are called shaggy dog stories... maybe it's because, as the jokes are quite long, you get lost in them – a bit like you would inside the long coat of a shaggy dog!

When you tell a shaggy dog story you obviously have to know how the story starts and you have to know the punch line, but really a lot of what you say in the middle you can make up as you go along. You don't have to know it off by heart, word by word, as you do with a normal joke.

In a way, with a shaggy dog story you are trying to muddle someone up so they don't really know where you are going with your story. The joke does make sense at the end but it also makes people realise they have been kind of tricked by you!

Two 'Shaggy Dog' Stories



A man went to the doctor and said, "Doctor, I'm not feeling very well and I have no energy."

The doctor checked him over and found nothing wrong.

So the doctor asked about the man's diet, thinking maybe he wasn't eating properly. "What did you have for breakfast this morning?" he said.

The man replied, "Snooker balls, just like every morning."

"Snooker balls! What kind?" said the astonished doctor.

"Well, this morning, I had two red ones, a white one and a blue one. Yesterday I ate a yellow and two brown balls. But I love the black and the pink most of all.

The doctor smiled and said, "Ah! I know why you're not feeling very well."

"What is it, doctor?"

"It's obvious – you're not getting enough greens."

Second 'Shaggy Dog' Story



A tall man turned into a busy street one day and went up to the door of the first house on the road. He leant forward and used his head to ring the house's doorbell. When the owner opened the door the tall man politely bowed and then walked quickly on to the next house. Again, he used his face to press the buzzer and bowed most courteously to the owner when she answered the door. This happened all the way down the street, from No 1 to No 33, with the tall man pressing his head on the doorbell of each and every house in turn.

"Who on earth is that man?" asked one puzzled house owner.

"I'm not quite sure," replied his neighbour, "but his face rings a bell."

Advice when telling a shaggy dog story

Elaborate the story - add details and extra information. - Perhaps the man was wearing a green and red coat, perhaps he had long hair. The neighbour could be wearing pyjamas... All these details help to lengthen the story, and make the punchline at the end even more exciting!

Telling Jokes or Shaggy Dog Stories



1. Make sure you know your jokes or shaggy dog stories and their punch lines really well. Keep practising until you know them properly.
2. You can begin a joke or story with a stock joke teller's phrase such as, 'I say, I say, I say...'
2. Speak slowly and clearly so that the person you are telling the joke to can hear all the words. Even when you really want to get to the part where you let someone know the punch line, don't rush!
3. Give the person you are telling the joke to time to think of an answer. If it's a shaggy dog story, pause dramatically before you let them know the punch line.
4. Be smiley when you tell your joke or story, don't burst into laughter while you are actually telling it! People can't hear you if you are having a fit of the giggles and – even though your jokes and stories are obviously the best in the world – it's better to let your audience do the laughing (or groaning).
5. When you have finished telling your jokes and stories, you can take a deep bow. You can also use a joke teller's sign-off line such as, 'Thank you ladies and gentlemen, I've been (say your name) and you've been amazing. Goodnight!' or, 'Thank you ladies and gentlemen, I'm here all week.'

A funny thing happened the other day



A writing template featuring a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red. The central area is a large white rectangle with ten horizontal lines, providing space for a student to write a story or journal entry.