







April Fool's Day



- April the first is April's Day. In France this is called "April Fish". Nobody is certain where this tradition comes from, but it is believed to have started when the calendar changed to start in January and not in April. Those people who didn't know the new system and still thought that April the first was the first day of the year were called "fools". Newspapers always print an April Fool's story to try and fool the readers. In schools pupils play tricks on teachers and teachers play tricks on their pupils too.

Which sentences are true and which ones are April Fool's jokes?

	It's true	It's an April Fool's joke
1. The Queen of England has got two birthdays		
2. Next year British money is changing. Robbie Williams is on all notes		
3. David Beckham pays £300 for a haircut		
4. In London they are building a new Big Ben clock with a digital watch face		
5. In Scotland the national food is sheeps stomach		
6. In England you can buy chocolate crisps		

Can you guess some riddles?



1. There are six of us in every family, but only four in the town, what are we?

2. I have cities but no houses, forests but no trees, rivers without water, what am I?

3. What can live on paper, but will die on water?

4. Which month has 28 days?

5. What is that which you cannot see, but which is always before you?

On the first of April children especially enjoy this day because everyone can try to make other people look ridiculous; but no time must be wasted because in midday all things return to normal and all jokes and pranks must stop.

In Victorian times children would get up especially early to play tricks on everyone. A favourite trick was to cry out to someone that their shoelace was undone, and then they looked down to shout out loudly "April Fool!". Another old trick was to send somebody upon a false errand, to fetch something quite silly such as two pennyworth of common sense, and when of course they returned without it, to greet them with cries of "April Fool!".

In France April Fool's Day is known as Poison d'Avril (April Fish Day). Children will sometimes make a paper fish and try to attach it to the back of the coat or dress of a grown-up, and then dance along behind out, "See the April Fish!"

(After Patricia Morrell, Festivals...)

Answer the following questions.

1. Is All Fool's Day an English or an international tradition?
2. Do you ever play tricks on your friends? And your teacher?
3. Do children enjoy All Fool's Day?
4. At what time on the first of April must all jokes and pranks stop?
5. What has always been the favourite trick of all children in the world?
6. Did anybody ever send you upon a false errand?
7. Has anyone ever managed to play a witty trick on you?
8. What tradition is there in France?
9. Do grown ups also try to play tricks on somebody?
10. Is it easy to play a trick on somebody?

Words:

a prank – шалость

to fetch – приносить

a shoelace – шнурок

a false errand – ложное поручение

pennyworth – стоимостью в 1 пенс

common sense – здравый смысл