

April 2007

Tips for Teachers

A service of ELMLE

Bad Jokes - We Love 'Em

Bad Jokes - Can't Get Enough of 'Em . . .

Join your ELMLE pals for a month of fun: jokes to share with your advisory, your math class, your colleagues at lunch, or your guru. Laughter is the best medicine (*but I didn't know we were sick!*), so we join Dusty and Lefty and the Powdermilk Biscuit gang in a lighthearted approach to school!

For an English class

There was a seventh grader who entered her school paper's pun contest. She sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win.

Unfortunately, **no pun in ten did.**

A **bus** station is where a bus stops.

A **train** station is where a train stops.

In my classroom I have a **work** station

For A Science Class

Two sodium atoms walk in to a laboratory and sit down. One is very upset. He says to his companion, "Oh, my goodness, I have lost one of my electrons!"

His friend says, "are you sure?"

To which he replies, "Absolutely, I'm POSITIVE!"

From Bret Anderson, American School of Budapest, who borrowed it from popular ELMLE conference speaker and scientist Michael Dispazzio.

Teacher: What can we do to stop polluting our waters?

Pupil: Stop taking baths?

Teacher: Can you give me a good example of how heat expands things and cold contracts them?

Pupil: Well, the days are much longer in summer."

Two young mushrooms sitting alone under a tree in the playground, watch Mr. Popular, the center of attention. One says to the other, "Why is he so popular." His pal replies, "He's a real funghi (fun guy: geddit?)"

From Jenna Nelson, ELMLE secretary and science teacher at the American School of the Hague.

Teacher: What is the formula for water?

Student: H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O

Teacher: That's not what I taught you!

Student: But you said the formula for water was H to O.

For A History Class

Teacher: What do Winnie the Pooh and Alexander the Great have in common?

Pupil: The same middle name.

Teacher: Why are you reading the last pages of your history book first?

Pupil: I want to know how it ends!

Teacher: Does anyone know who broke the sound barrier?

Pupil: I'm no squealer!

For the Gang in The School Cafeteria

One lunchtime, Nancy and Jack were eating in the school cafeteria. Henry was about halfway through his meal when he took a hard look at the potato, called the supervising teacher over and said, "This potato is bad!"

The teacher picked the potato up, smacked it, put it back on the plate, then told the students, "If that potato causes any more trouble, just let me know."

For the School Admissions Office

Admissions: Are you in the top half of your class?

Prospective student: No, I'm one of the students who makes the top half possible!

For The Art Class

Art Teacher: The picture of the horse is good, but where is the wagon?

Pupil: The horse will draw it!

For the Health Class

Teacher: Why are you picking your nose in class?

Pupil: My mother won't let me do it at home!

Teacher: Do you file your nails, Billy?

Billy: No, I just throw them away!

For the Class After Lunch

Teacher: Billy, stop your day dreaming!

Billy: I wasn't day dreaming! I was taking a nap!

For Sixth Grade Homeroom

The homeroom teacher was standing outside her room as the children entered one morning. Along came little David, deliberately winking his left eye. "Why, David," said the teacher, "are you winking at me?" "No, just got my turn signal on," David replied, making a neat left turn into his room.

The sixth grader came home from school bubbling with excitement after having been voted "Prettiest Girl in the Class." She was even more excited when she came home the next day after the class had voted her "Most Popular." But several days later when she announced she had won a third contest, she was somewhat subdued. "What were you voted this time?" her mother asked. "Most Stuck-up," the girl replied.

Mrs. Jones, may I share my story on the Middle Ages I wrote last night?
"He was a dark and stormy knight...."

What's the difference between a teacher and a train?

The teacher says, "Get that gum out of your mouth",
whereas the train says, "Chew, Chew".

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Isabella!
Isabella who?
Isabella out of order

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Isadore!
Isadore who?
Isadore locked, I can't get in

For the School That Has it All

A visitor to a certain European international school paused to admire the new Hemingway Library that had been built on campus.

"It's a pleasure to see a building named for Ernest Hemingway," he said.

"Actually," said his guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway. No relation of Ernest."

The visitor was astonished. "Was Joshua Hemingway a writer, also?"

"Yes, indeed," said his guide. "He wrote a cheque."

Testing Times in the Mathematics Classroom

1960s ARITHMETIC TEST: "A logger cuts and sells a truckload of timber for \$100. His cost of production is four-fifths of that amount. What is his profit?"

1970s new-math test: "A logger exchanges a set (L) of timber for a set (M) of money. The cardinality of Set M is 100. The Set C of production costs contains 20 fewer points. What cardinality of Set P of profits?"

1980s "dumbed down" version: "A logger cuts and sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost is \$80, his profit is \$20. Find and circle the number 20."

2000s version: "An unenlightened logger cuts down a beautiful stand of 100 trees in order to make a \$20 profit. Write an essay explaining how you feel about this as a way to make money. Topic for discussion: How did the forests and squirrels feel?"

**"Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves,
for they shall never cease to be amused."**

The European League for Middle Level Education encourages laughter wherever permissible. To that end, we are offering a stupendous prize to the teacher who writes the best parody of Tammy Wynette's *Sometimes It's Hard To Be a Woman*, but beginning with the words, *Sometimes It's Hard to be a Teacher . . .* ELMLE is a proud affiliate of the National Middle Schools Association. Learn more at www.elmle.org and www.nmsa.org and discover the benefits!

No laughing matter . . .

Teachers and other practitioners with an interest in middle level education are invited to submit articles for the ELMLE periodical [Bridge in the Middle](#). Check out the ELMLE website for full details, including news about conference fee reductions for Vienna 2008 for accepted authors.

Have you got a Tip for Teachers? (Be honest: who *hasn't*?) Earn fame by sharing them through this medium next month! Email them to alan_heath@asl.org.

