

Index

- abbreviations, in coded messages 56–9
 activities 6–7
 chain 10; gap-filling 29; levels of
 language difficulty 7; preparation for 7;
 time allocation 7; warm-up 8–26
All wired up (6.6) 132–4
Amazing titles (7.1) 144–6
 ambiguity *see* double meaning
Anagrams (3.12) 66–8
And it's a big IF! (8.10) 196–7
And the winner is ... (3.10) 63–5
 anecdotes 2, 144–78
 British 153–5; Jewish 151–3; Muslim
 148–51
Anti-proverbs (4.3) 75–7
Are you sure, sir? (9.2) 208–10
Art of being wrong, The (9.11) 223–5
 articulation, tongue-twisters and 44–7
 audience, role of the 42–3
- Be more English than the English!* (10.9)
 250
Belly-dancer, The (9.13) 229–31
Big de pottment, A (10.8) 246–50
Billy Boy (and Lilly Girl) (5.11)
 116–18
 bloopers 242–6
British anecdotes (7.5) 153–5
Bunny, The (8.8) 192–4
Buzz (1.4) 10–11
Buzz off! (7.12) 170–4
- Call me a taxi!* (3.9) 62–3
Call my bluff! (7.10) 165–9
Can you imagine? (7.9) 163–5
Captionless cartoons (6.8) 136–8
Cartoon exhibition, A (6.11) 141–2
 cartoons 2, 131–2
 creating captions for 136–8; high-tech
 132–4; making captions into dialogues
 127–9; to illustrate hyperboles 129–31;
 translation into English 141–2;
 visualising to match captions 138–40;
 without words 125–7
Catch them laughing! (1.9) 15–16
Catch-22 (7.13) 174–7
Charades (8.3) 182–3
Cheeky, eh? (10.4) 239–41
 children, and schools 6, 233–55
Children's games (6.7) 134–6
 clichés 194–6
Coded messages (3.6) 56–9
 comedy 4, 179
 comedy sketches 2, 179–205
 commands 12–13
 conditional sentences 196–7
 counting games 10–11
 course material
 adding a twist to 229–31; lack of
 humour in 5
Crazy Award, The (1.17) 25–6
 culture, and humour 1–2, 27
- Daft letter, A* (9.12) 226–9
Deadly quotations (4.12) 90–1
 death, witty sayings on 90–1
 dialogues 179–205
 drawings and 198; expanding
 humorously 36–7; turning into jokes
 34–6
Disappearing song, The (5.10) 114–15
Doctor Rabbit (6.3) 127–9
Don't do this! Don't do that! (10.11)
 253–5
Don't exaggerate! (6.4) 129–31
Don't panic! (6.1) 124–5
 double meaning 44
 jokes with 62–5; rhymes with 59–60
- Enjoy your stay!* (9.6) 215–16
Entangled two-liners (2.5) 33–4
Epitaphs (4.13) 92–4
 errors 206–32
 in signs and advertisements 213–16

Index

- Excuses, excuses* (10.2) 235–6
Expanding dialogues (2.7) 36–7
- fables, Aesop's 71–3
 faces
 effect of laughter on 3; emotions shown on 124–5
 failures 206–32
Fake or real? (4.2) 73–4
Felt hat, The (3.7) 59–60
Fit for a pig (3.8) 60–1
Five laughs (1.7) 13–14
 folk tales 71–3
 dramatising and performing 201–5;
 as poems 107–10; turned into mime 146–7
 foreign accents, sensitivity to 246–50
From verse to prose (5.6) 106–7
 fun *see* humour
Funny names (1.2) 9
Funny news (1.16) 24–5
- games
 children's 134–6; counting 10–11
Go to the polls (4.9) 85–7
 gossip 190–2
Graffiti artists at work (4.10) 87–8
 grammar, inconsistencies in 212–13
Group mime story (8.1) 179–80
- Ham and eggs* (4.8) 84
He who laughs last ... (1.13) 20–1
He's a bit slow (10.5) 241–2
Hi, Harry! (1.3) 10
Hidden proverbs (4.4) 77–9
Hobbyhorse, The (7.6) 155–8
Hot off the press (9.8) 218–20
House of Wisdom, The (4.14) 94–5
- humour
 bonding function 2; and culture 1–2;
 definitions 1; genres of 2, 6; and
 jokes 3; in language teaching 5; and
 laughter 2–3; and political correctness
 4; sense of 19; and seriousness 3–4
 hyperbole, cartoons to illustrate 129–31
- I wish I didn't talk so much* (5.8) 110–12
I wonder who I am (5.12) 118–19
IF, And it's a big (8.10) 196–7
I'm a little deaf (8.4) 184–6
 images 124–43
In a dark dark wood (5.2) 99–100
- In my mind's eye ...* (6.9) 138–40
InNOcent letter\$ (10.10) 251–3
Intelligence test, An (3.5) 54–6
- Internet
 quiz 54–6; simplifying English spelling
 210–11
- Interpreter, The* (2.11) 42–3
 intonation 11
It makes all the difference! (9.1) 206–8
- Jabberwocky* (5.1) 96–9
 Jewish folk humour 151–3
 jokes 2, 3, 27–43
 cultural responses to 27; delivering
 37–8; doctor–patient 30–1; getting the
 punchline in 20–1; good news/bad news
 31–2; offensive 4; recreating step by
 step 39–40; role of the audience 42–3;
 understanding in English 3
- Knock-knock!* (3.2) 47–9
- language of humour 5
 language play 44–70
Laugh epidemic, The (1.8) 14–15
Laugh in prison! (2.8) 37–8
Laugh till you drop (1.10) 16–17
Laughing quotes (1.11) 17–19
- laughter
 ability to laugh at oneself 21–2;
 describing habits 15–16; different types
 of 13–14; and humour 2–3; introducing
 the topic of 8–26; making each other
 laugh 14–15; and quality of life 3, 8;
 witty sayings on 17–18
- legends *see* myths
Life in a village (8.7) 190–2
 limericks 100–2
Little Red Riding Hood (5.7) 107–10
Look into the mirror! (1.14) 21–2
 lying, professional 165–9
- Mad libs* (8.12) 199–201
 magazine page, designing a funny 24–5
Mice and cats (4.1) 71–3
- mime
 group 179–80; of silent movie 180–2;
 turning folk tales into 146–8
- Mimi-novel, The* (7.14) 177–8
 misprints 206–8
 mistakes *see* errors
Mistakes all around (9.5) 213–15

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79960-7 - Laughing Matters: Humour in the Language Classroom

Peter Medgyes

Index

[More information](#)*Laughing Matters*

- misunderstandings 44, 60–1
 mother tongue, translations into English 106–7
Mr Roy's watch (1.5) 11–12
Mumble-jumble (7.11) 169–70
 Muslim anecdotes 148–51
 myths 159–62
- names
 funny 9; learning by attention-catching
 winks 8; musicians 118–19
Nasreddin anecdotes (7.3) 148–51
 newspaper headlines 218–20
Next please! (2.3) 30–1
 non-verbal communication *see* mime
 nonsense poems 96–9
- O'Grady says* (1.6) 12–13
Old limericks – old people (5.3) 100–2
Oxymora (3.11) 65–6
- Pair us up!* (4.6) 80–2
Palindromes (3.13) 68–70
Pancake, The (8.13) 201–5
 parts of speech 199–201
Pessimist, The (5.9) 112–14
 philosophy 88–90
 pictures 124–43
Please touch the exhibits! (6.12) 142–3
 poems 2, 96–123
 nonsense 96–9; translations into
 English 106–7; wishing 110–12
 politeness 170–4
 political correctness
 defined 4; traditional songs and 116–18
 pronunciation
 corresponding pairs 52–4; English
 208–10
 proverbs 2, 71–95
 anti-proverbs 75–7; comparison in
 different languages 73–4; hidden 77–9;
 wisdom in 94–5
Punny riddles (3.3) 50–2
 puns 2, 44–70
 defined 44
 purpose clauses 119–23
 puzzles 44–70
- quotations 71–95
 the absurd in 84; matching 80–2;
 twisted 82–3; voting for best 85–7
Quotes on books (4.5) 79–80
- Rabbit and the butcher, The* (2.9) 39–40
 relative pronouns 119–23
Repeats (8.5) 186–9
 repetition 184–9
 rhymes
 acting out 99–100; children's 96
 riddles 44, 50–2
- Sad consequences* (9.9) 220–1
Sages of Chelm, The (7.4) 151–3
 schools, children and 6, 233–55
Secret Society of Incompetents, The (9.14)
 231–2
 self-criticism 231–2
Sense of humour, A (1.12) 19
 sentences
 creating a mini-novel from opening
 177–8; matching corresponding 33–4
 seriousness 3–4
Silent movie scripts (8.2) 180–2
 sketches *see* comedy sketches
Sky-high with grimaces (6.2) 125–7
 slapstick 180–2
 slips of the tongue 206
Smiles and jokes (1.15) 22–4
Snails and mushrooms (2.10) 40–1
 songs 2, 96–123
 popular action 114–15; relative
 pronouns and purpose clauses 119–23
 spelling, simplifying English 210–11
Stone soup, The (7.2) 146–8
Story relay (7.8) 162–3
 story-telling 144–78
 how to be entertaining 163–5; sentence
 by sentence 162–3
Student bloopers (10.6) 242–4
Stupid questions – snappy answers (6.10)
 140–1
- taboos, violation of 4
 tact 241–2
Talking objects (8.11) 198
 tastes, differing 189–90
Teacher bloopers (10.7) 244–6
Teeth and beeth (9.4) 212–13
Telltales and others (10.3) 236–8
There was an old lady (5.13) 119–23
There's a fly in my soup! (2.2) 29–30
 titles, importance of 144–6
 tongue-twisters 44–7
Twist your tongue! (3.1) 44–7
Twisted quotes (4.7) 82–3

Index

- Two-way translations* (5.5) 104–6
typos *see* misprints
- ‘Unfunny’ dialogues* (2.6) 34–6
Urban myths (7.7) 159–62
Urban philosophers (4.11) 88–90
Useless inventions (9.10) 221–3
Utter connections (3.4) 52–4
- vocabulary, inconsistencies in 212–13
Vot a relief! (9.3) 210–11
- Waiter, waiter!* (2.1) 27–8
What a change! (10.1) 233–4
What a small world! (8.9) 194–6
Which do you want first? (2.4) 31–3
Wink first (1.1) 8
wisecracks 27–43
Witness reports (5.4) 103–4
- You can’t be serious!* (9.7) 217–18
You’ve got cows (6.5) 131–2
Yuk, yuk ... (8.6) 189–90