



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

April Fool's Day 愚人节

Have you been tricked? 你被人耍了吗?

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

1st April is a day to be careful, or you could easily get tricked by someone. It's April Fool's Day, a day when people traditionally like to try to make a fool of someone else and laugh at them.

There are lots of theories surrounding the origins of the day, but one explanation is connected with the change in the calendar in the 16th century, which meant that 1st April was no longer the beginning of the year. Those who still celebrated the New Year on 1st April were called fools.

So what kind of pranks do people play on April Fool's Day? Well, there are lots of simple tricks that you can play on your friends. For example, you could wear a black sweater and pull a piece of white thread through it, so that people try to pull it off. You could change the time on someone's alarm clock so that they're late for work. Or glue a coin to the floor and see how many people try to pick it up.

All these are small-scale practical jokes which you might play on one other person or a few people. But there's also a tradition of large companies attempting to fool a lot of people. For example a burger restaurant once claimed that they were introducing a left-handed burger!

In particular, the media often try to make people believe something which is not true. Newspapers publish some ludicrous stories every year, although some of them are actually true. It's entertaining to try to guess which stories are true and which are fake. In the April Fool's stories, they often include a clue to the fact that it's a joke. For example the name of an 'expert' quoted in the article might be an anagram of 'April Fool'.

Radio and television programmes have also fooled many people by broadcasting reports which are untrue. One programme announced the invention of an amazing new weight-loss product - water which contained minus calories!

And one of the most famous hoaxes ever was broadcast by the BBC itself in 1957! A very serious news programme called Panorama reported on the poor spaghetti harvest in Switzerland, and showed pictures of farmers picking spaghetti from trees! Hundreds of people were taken in and wrote to the BBC asking how to grow their own spaghetti.

Glossary 词汇表

tricked 被骗了, 开玩笑	to make a fool of 把某人耍了
theories 推断, 理论	origins 由来, 起源
calendar 日历	pranks 恶作剧, 鬼把戏
small-scale 小规模	practical jokes 恶作剧
left-handed 左手的	publish 出版
ludicrous 滑稽的;荒唐的	fake 假的, 假货
anagram 拼字游戏	broadcasting 广播
weight-loss 减肥	calories 卡[热量的单位]
hoaxes 骗局	spaghetti 意大利细面条
harvest 收成, 收获	taken in 相信了

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. April Fool's Day only began a few years ago. True / False
2. A prank is another word for a trick. True / False
3. The media often trick people on April Fool's Day. True / False
4. Lola Fripp is an anagram of April Fool. True / False
5. Spaghetti really does grow on trees. True / False

2. Anagrams 组词填空

See if you can work out which word matches which anagram.

重新排列组合次序混乱的词语，然后把正确词语填空造句。

newspapers	spaghetti	practical joke
calendar	origin	television

1. i ringo

2. at the pigs

3. pan spewer

4. svelte ioni

5. darn lace

6. tropic jack ale

3. Active and passive 主动语态和被动语态

For each pair of sentences, decide where to use the active or passive form of the verb.

在以下每组句子里，判断是该用单词的主动语态还是被动语态。

1.

a) Newspapers _____ fake stories on April Fool's Day.

b) Fake stories _____ by newspapers on April Fool's Day.

publish / are published

2.

a) Lots of people like to _____ their friends.

b) Lots of people _____ by their friends.

are fooled / fool

3.

a) A famous hoax _____ by the BBC.

b) The BBC _____ a famous hoax.

broadcast / was broadcast

4.

a) He _____ the time on his brother's alarm clock.

b) His alarm clock _____ by his brother.

was changed / changed



4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with April Fool's Day in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与愚人节有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

t	h	j	w	t	r	i	t	e	a	o	p
f	o	o	l	b	v	p	r	a	n	k	m
h	j	z	c	a	s	d	g	f	a	l	n
a	g	t	y	w	p	o	e	a	g	k	k
n	r	p	r	p	a	r	o	i	r	w	r
a	a	s	k	a	n	u	i	f	a	k	e
t	d	f	m	e	d	i	a	l	m	q	u
r	r	b	v	k	w	i	y	x	e	b	p
i	t	j	a	d	k	l	t	r	d	z	r
c	y	h	o	a	x	o	e	i	m	c	v
k	d	p	g	k	j	i	u	j	o	e	y
b	f	o	o	x	e	t	i	o	n	n	i

fool	tradition	trick	prank	joke
fake	hoax	anagram	media	April

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. April Fool's Day only began a few years ago.
False
2. A prank is another word for a trick.
True
3. The media often trick people on April Fool's Day.
True
4. Lola Frip is an anagram of April Fool.
False
5. Spaghetti really does grow on trees.
False

2. Anagrams

1. i ringo
origin
2. at the pigs
spaghetti
3. pan spewer
newspaper
4. svelte ioni
television
5. darn lace
calendar
6. tropic jack ale
practical joke

3. Active and passive

1.
 - a) Newspapers **publish** fake stories on April Fool's Day.
 - b) Fake stories **are published** by newspapers on April Fool's Day.
2.
 - a) Lots of people like to **fool** their friends.
 - b) Lots of people **are fooled** by their friends.
3.
 - a) A famous hoax was **broadcast** by the BBC.
 - b) The BBC **broadcast** a famous hoax.
4.
 - a) He **changed** the time on his brother's alarm clock.
 - b) His alarm clock **was changed** by his brother.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

									a		
f	o	o	l			p	r	a	n	k	
				a					a		
		t			p				g		
			r			r			r		
				a			i	f	a	k	e
t			m	e	d	i	a	l	m		
r						i					
i		j					t				
c		h	o	a	x			i			
k				k					o		
					e					n	