

LAUGH AND LEARN

1 APRIL FOOLS DAY

THE LEARN

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of the All Fools Day tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the New Year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration finished on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications at that time traveled by foot, and many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more stubborn crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the receivers of practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day developed into an international fun fest, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families.

Pranks performed on April Fool's Day range from the simple, (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied, or I accidentally stepped on your glasses!"), to the elaborate. Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!"

Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool's Day. Sometimes, elaborate practical jokes are played. The news media even gets involved. For instance, a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees. [see below]

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!

THE LINKS

MAD TV Feature: April Fools

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuH4bgMGEEg>

April Fools: Math Class Shadow

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIOrY-nEGaE>

Famous April Fool's Day Hoax - Spaghetti Harvest - 1st April 1957

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27ugSKW4-QQ>

April Fool's Day Prank

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qU3fXjISzLU>

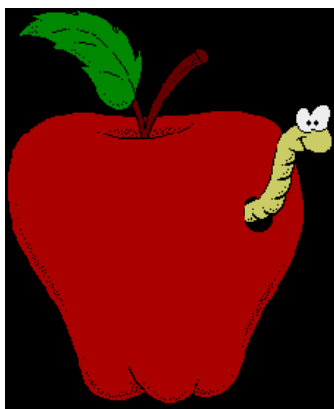
THE LAUGHS

April Fools' Practical Jokes & Pranks

I don't personally recommend these stunts. [wink, wink] I just want you to know about some things people have done on 1 April as practical jokes. I wish you a great April Fool's Day with lots of laughter and no harm to anyone.

Got Milk?

If your milk comes in a cardboard container, add a few drops of food coloring. It's harmless April Fool's joke but the results are pretty colorful.



What's That in Your Apple?

For a fruity April Fool's practical joke, get a few gummy worms and carefully poke them into fresh fruit, particularly apples. Give mom or dad a wormy apple for lunch and leave a few apples on the table for friends and family members to snack on.

Spare Change

This April Fool's practical joke is old but it still works. Superglue some coins to the sidewalk or any spot that has **a lot of people** walking around. Make sure it's an appropriate place, then watch people break fingernails to get the

coins.



One Sick Joke

Fill a **hot water bottle** with blended leftovers or even pea soup. Keep the bottle hidden under your shirt near your chest and make a trip to the cafeteria. Your friends need to be in on this prank. When the cafeteria is full, make a loud noise to attract attention, bend over the table and squeeze the bottle. Your sludge should **spew out** all over the table like you've just thrown up.



Egged On

Glue eggs to the carton and beg for eggs in the morning. When the victim gets them the eggs break!



A Cool Idea

Put some water in a cereal bowl, and place it in the freezer so that the water freezes. Offer to make your sister/brother cereal in the morning. Make sure you use that same bowl. Put their favorite cereal over the top of the ice, and serve.

Woopie

Take a Woopie Cushion to school and put it on the teacher's chair!



Switch the salt

For a great April Fool's joke, if you have little holders for your salt and pepper, switch the salt with sugar and then watch your family's and friend's faces when they try their food! Just make sure they have something they eat salt with.



Bang

Get a balloon and put it on the tailpipe of a truck, ferrari, etc. (Make sure the car isn't already on!) Then get in it and have your parents start it up and it will pop. It will sound like the



tire



Powder

Get up really early and sneak into your victim's bathroom and fill their hair-dryer with baby powder. And when they turn it on, their head will be pure white just like an old person!

Teacher's Joke

Tell your students that you just got the test scores from the proficiency tests and you are going to make copies of these. Then come running / walking and make your face look like you someone died and say to your pupils that the headmaster just spilled coffee on the proficiency tests and they will have to take it again.