

# LAUGH AND LEARN

## WHAT MAKES PEOPLE LAUGH?



*There was a power outage at a department store yesterday. Twenty people were trapped on the escalators.*

### THE LEARN

*I got in a fight with my wife last night and it was totally my fault. She asked me what was on the TV and I said: dust. It didn't go too well after that.*

"We Homo sapiens [humans] are the only earthly creatures that laugh. Perhaps more than anything else, the ability to laugh defines us as human. Scientists once distinguished humans from the animal world by our ability to make and use tools. We now know that some birds and animals also make and use tools, although I wouldn't recommend any of them for fine cabinetry. There is even some evidence that certain social animals possess behavioral traits akin [similar] to ethics, not that a sense of ethics was ever considered a defining characteristic for humans. So it well may be that only laughter distinguishes us as a fundamentally unique life form."

"Think what a fine thing it is that only we humans can laugh. Imagine trying to milk a cow that could laugh. Think how annoying it would be if your dog or cat could laugh. You step out of the shower and your cat bursts out laughing. For that very reason, God mercifully deprived animals of a sense of humor."

[Patrick McManus, famous humor writer in "Excursions into the Writing of Humor.]

Q: How many small jokes did McManus make in writing about only humans laugh?

Q: Is Mr. McManus correct in saying that only humans laugh? We know that animals can be excited and have a sense of pleasure. Is that the same as having a sense of humor and appreciating a joke?

Q: Where do you think our sense of humor comes from?



"He will yet fill your mouth with laughter." Job 8:21

I bought a dog the other day... I named him Stay. It's fun to call him... "Come here, Stay! Come here, Stay!" He went insane.

Harlan Popov, who spent 14 years in Romanian prisons under communist dictator Ceaușescu, told me several prison jokes [about 30 years ago]. I asked how they could joke like that while being beaten daily and watching people die. He told me that humor and laughter are central to healthy humanity, and that they became very concerned about fellow prisoners who no longer laughed. Such prisoners were losing touch with humanity and would usually soon die.

### Here is an interesting quiz about the truth behind giggles and belly laughs.

1. It has been scientifically demonstrated that laughter can influence a person's cardiovascular health. True ( ) False ( )
2. There might be many kinds of laughs, but they all mean that someone is happy. True ( ) False ( )
3. Laughing is fun, but it doesn't really count as any kind of exercise. True ( ) False ( )
4. The happiest people laugh about two times a day, without fail. True ( ) False ( )
5. You can teach yourself to laugh. True ( ) False ( )



### ANSWERS:

**1. True.** Scientific experiments show that laughter can cause the tissue forming the lining of blood vessels to dilate and increase blood flow. Laughter can even reverse the effects of anxiety or stress, which tend to be vasoconstrictors, which restrict the flow of blood and become the first step toward heart disease.

**2. False.** A laugh might mean many things besides being happy. There can be a cruel laugh at others' expense, a group laugh started without anything being funny, contagious laughter, hysterical laughter caused by fright and the nervous laughter that erupts at the very worst times -- at funerals or other solemn occasions. You don't have to be happy to laugh.

**3. False.** Frequent and continued laughing can use up as many calories as a good, long walk. Many parts of the body are involved in smiling and laughing, from the scalp down to the face, throat, shoulders, diaphragm, abdomen, pelvis and legs. What a workout!

**4. False.** Assuming that people laugh at jokes (which provoke only about 20 percent of laughs, according to some studies) or because they have a generally sunny outlook that allows for a lot of laughing, there is a lot more than twice-a-day guffawing going on in the "happiest" groups. Most people laugh around 15 times a day. In fact, great laughers are said to laugh out loud several hundred times a day!

**5. True.** Those who are not in the habit of laughing might not be spending enough time talking to others or being in groups. According to research, we are 30 times less likely to laugh out loud when alone, even when viewing a funny TV show or movie. If you socialize with people who have a good sense of humor, you can increase your laugh count.

## THE LINKS

The Barney Fife Peter Pieper Nose Pinching Test

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AE0c4MVxshs>

The funniest video ever!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WzEU3pEIM8>

The Laugh Compilation (FUNNIEST VIDEOS EVER)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKXa8yuZEcA>

Delta Goodrem - God Laughs (Live @ Today Show)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3Y2ZEhUG8w>

More links below

## THE LAUGHS

### So what makes us laugh?

Here are some examples what makes us laugh:

**Stupid people:** A man being mugged by two thugs put up a tremendous fight! Finally, the thugs subdued him and took his wallet. Upon finding only two dollars in the wallet, the surprised thug said "Why did you put up such a fight?" To which the man promptly replied "I was afraid that you would find the \$200 hidden in my shoe!"

**Funny Jokes:** A lonely frog, desperate for any form of company telephoned the Psychic Hot line to find out what his future has in store. His Personal Psychic Adviser advises him, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you." The frog is thrilled and says, "This is great! Where will I meet her, at work, at a party?" "No" says the psychic, "in a Biology class."

**I made wine out of raisins so I wouldn't have to wait for it to age.**

A ragged individual stranded for several months on a small desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean one day noticed a bottle lying in the sand with a piece of paper in it. Rushing to the bottle, he pulled out the cork and with shaking hands withdrew the message. "Due to lack use," he read, "we regretfully find it necessary to cancel your e-mail account."

**Funny Pictures:** Pictures with funny signs, funny people faces, crazy or drunk people, they all make us laugh.



Thousands of years ago Chuck Norris came across a bear. It was so terrified that it fled north into the arctic. It was also so terrified that all of its descendents now have white hair.

**Dark Humor:** One popular category of humor is humor where someone gets insulted or hurt in a not so funny to have happen to you [but still funny to watch] way. This makes us laugh.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly, and for the same reason.

**Coyote & Road Runner** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUq9hynzCVo>

**King of Insults: Don Rickles Roasts Reagan**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ALHiadIsKo>

I used to be an airline pilot. I got fired because I kept locking the keys in the plane. They caught me on an 80 foot ladder with a coat hanger.

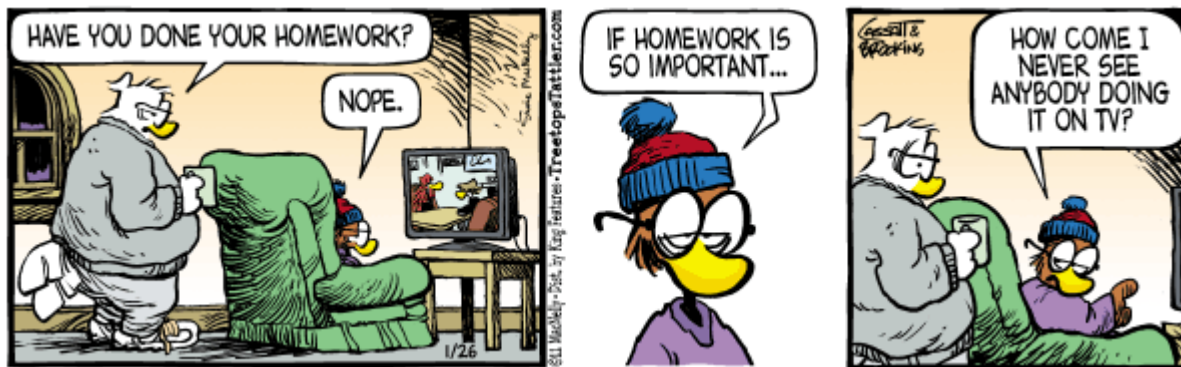
If the pen is mightier than the sword, in a duel I'll let you have the pen!

The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and doesn't stop until you get to school

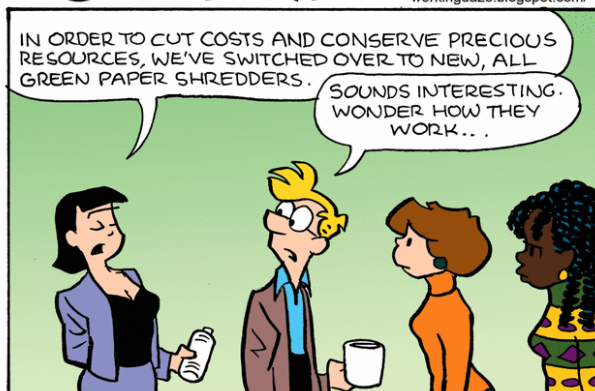
I installed a skylight in my apartment.... The people who live above me are furious!

A car mechanic received a repair order that said to check for a clanking noise when going around corners so he took the car out for a test drive and made a right turn, then a left turn, each time hearing a loud clunk.

When he arrived back at the garage he returned the car to the service manager with this note: 'Removed bowling ball from trunk.'



**WORKING DAZE** JOHN ZAKOUR  
SCOTT ROBERTS  
workingdaze.blogspot.com/



'You should be ashamed,' the father told his son, Andy, 'When Abraham Lincoln was your age, he used to walk ten miles every day to get to school.'

'Really?' Andy responded. 'Well, when he was your age, he was president.'

"The one who rules in heaven laughs." Psalm 2:4



**THAT'S LIFE** BY MIKE TWOHY

