

# Laugh & Learn for 2 April, 2009

## *Thought for Today*

"One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested."

— E. M. Forster

**To bluff:** to mislead by a display of strength, self-confidence, or the like: He bluffed me into believing that he was a rich man.

In Poker: to deceive by a show of confidence in the strength of one's cards.

**Idiom: "call somebody's bluff"**

To make someone do what they said they will do

To make someone prove that what they are saying is true

**Example:** He said he would quit if he didn't get a promotion, so we called his bluff.

Originally: If you are playing a card game and you **call someone's bluff**, you force that person to show you the cards he has.



## **With Pres. Obama in the Czech R., let's hear some Czech Leaders' views on the USA...with some fun.**



**Mirek Topolanek**...warned that the Obama administration's opting for massive stimulus programs risked destabilizing global financial markets. "The US treasury secretary talks about permanent action and we at our [EU summit] were quite alarmed by that. He talks about an extensive US stimulus campaign. All of these steps are the road to hell."

Opting: choosing

Massive: big

Stimulus: something that excites or causes action

**Mr. Dan's comment:** Prime Minister Topolanek's words are right on target and I appreciate his courage to speak them. I wish him well as he considers his future in government.

## Vaclav Havel in "To the Castle and Back" [published 2006, page 63]



I'm finding American more and more likeable. I am bothered less and less by things I once found hard to accept, or even ridiculous. Nevertheless, to be fair, I will mention several such annoyances. They love to chew gum, which makes them look like ruminants. This bothers me particularly in the case of women.

They love putting their feet on the table, or at least the men do. They eat incomprehensively thick buns that they stuff with everything possible, including lettuce. Eating these requires special skills. I'm always afraid that if I tried to eat such a bun [I've never eaten one in my life] I would either tear my mouth because it was too big, or I'd squeeze it and everything in would fall out onto the ground. They wash this bun down, at best with water, at worst with Coca-cola or milk, either from a bottle or a can, or a plastic container or cup. I wouldn't call myself an alcoholic, but the thought of not drinking beer or wine with a meal is hard to contemplate, In any case, drinking water with meals reminds me of my years in prison...



Americans place great store in white teeth, something I find generally agreeable; they have dozens of ways of achieving dental perfection and whiteness, and I don't think it is unusual for people here to have relatively healthy set of teeth replaced with one that is artificial but more beautiful.

One big change, compared with earlier visits, is the increasing predominance of European and Japanese cars. These are smaller and more economical than American cars, which, for unknown reasons, have herds of useless horses under their hoods and are capable of speeds many times greater than is allowed anywhere here."

### **Mr. Dan's comment:**

**Ruminants:** a cow chewing its cud.

**Putting feet on table:** Wow, that is disgusting...and yes it happens...usually in one's own living room...on the low coffee table and not a food table.

**Thick buns:** These are called submarine sandwiches because they are shaped like a submarine ship. One restaurant chain called "Subway" specializes in these sandwiches. President Havel is wrong that the food might fall out on the ground. It always falls onto your shirt or blouse. Oh...these are the best sandwiches in the world. If he had eaten one, he would have added that comment.

**White teeth:** Many movie stars have perfect looking teeth because these are not their natural teeth.

**Place great store in:** An idiom meaning to give high value to.

**Cars:** Havel didn't know it at the time, but he was predicting this year's crisis with the American car industry.

## The Links

Lucy with Vitameatavegamin.

<http://www.funnieststuff.net/viewmovie.php?id=1172>

*I Love Lucy* was the most-watched show in the United States for many years.

**I Promise No Politics.** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzSMvNjit5I>

ESL Listening, vocab with quiz! - Air Force One – USA President's airplane

**America's favorite Easter song:**

Featuring the song writer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVdEdIDyeeA>

Now in soul style: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b46sa4ZQ3rM>

In a black church on Easter Sunday: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7ltPPnIE5w>

Again but with Lyrics:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQx28iadUc8&feature=Playlist&p=5233023C9CD2119B&playnext=1&playnext\\_from=PL&index=37](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQx28iadUc8&feature=Playlist&p=5233023C9CD2119B&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=37)

## The Laugh

### One-Liners

- If you find something you like, buy a lifetime supply, because they will stop making it.
- If you eat a live frog in the morning, nothing worse will happen to either of you for the rest of the day.
- Sign outside a McDonalds restaurant: "Scream until daddy stops the car!"
- If you can read the writing on the wall, it means the kids have found the crayons.
- I don't have a solution, but I admire the problem.
- Confidence is the feeling you have before you really understand the problem.
- There are only two things a child will share willingly: communicable diseases and his mother's age.
- Cleaning your house while your kids are at home is like trying to shovel the driveway during a snowstorm.



### Graveyard shift is 23:00 to 7:00



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