



April Fools' Day (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Does 1st April have a particular name in your country? If so, what is it?
2. Do people often play tricks on each other on 1st April?
3. Have you ever been the victim of an April Fools' trick?
4. If so, did you find it amusing? Why (not)?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. Some connect April Fools' Day to an ancient Roman festival which
 - a) was celebrated on 1st April.
 - b) was called Cybele.
 - c) was a day for fun and games.
2. There is a lot of evidence linking April Fools' Day to similar Hindu, Persian and Jewish festivals.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
 - c) The article doesn't say.
3. In one of the stories in *The Canterbury Tales*, written in 1392 by Geoffrey Chaucer,
 - a) a fox and a cock play a trick on a man.
 - b) a cock tricks a fox.
 - c) a fox tricks a cock.
4. The first definite mention of April Fools' Day was in
 - a) the fifteenth century.
 - b) the sixteenth century.
 - c) the seventeenth century.
5. In Scotland, April Fools' Day is called
 - a) Taily Day.
 - b) Pigs' Day.
 - c) Kick-Me Day.
6. The article says April Fools' jokes can go too far and cause problems when they
 - a) go viral on social media.
 - b) are played on one person.
 - c) aren't funny.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What was the purpose of the Roman festival Hilaria?
2. What do the Roman, Hindu, Persian and Jewish festivals have in common?
3. What is the connection between April Fools' Day and the Gregorian calendar?
4. What was the prank described in a Flemish poem of 1561?
5. Why was the Treaty of Warsaw backdated?
6. What is a possible explanation for the 'April fish' tradition in Italy and France?
7. What kind of April Fools' trick was often played in Ireland?
8. Why do some April Fools' tricks leave people disorientated nowadays?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Every year, over a million people die from diseases that are _____ by mosquitoes.
2. The policeman ran after the thief and _____ him before he could get onto his motorcycle.
3. Amanda's very _____. She's always looking at herself in the mirror.
4. The animal I saw in the garden was a fox, not a cat. It had a big bushy _____.
5. The government needs to act _____ to solve the situation before it gets worse.
6. I was a _____ to lend James my bike. When he gave it back to me it was damaged.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

Nowadays, misinformation can spread widely and rapidly on social media and cause great inconvenience or ¹_____ (even/still/little/many) serious harm. In 2013, April Fools' Day coincided with Easter Monday, a public holiday ²_____ (at/in/on/for) which many families go out for the day. The previous evening, a foolish Dutch police officer decided to ³_____ (play/trick/joke/strike) his fellow citizens by posting a false message on the national police website. The message informed motorists that a 20-mile section of the A2 motorway between Amsterdam and Utrecht ⁴_____ (had/will/would/can) be closed to traffic the following day, so that an episode of a popular TV programme could be filmed. ⁵_____ (However/As/Through/Though) the message remained on the website for only an hour, it caused such a serious disruption to Easter traffic ⁶_____ (so/that/but/yet) the Dutch police were forced to apologise to the public.

F – Write about it

Write about a trick that you didn't find amusing. Mention:

- who played the trick;
 - who the victim was;
 - what the trick consisted of;
 - how the victim reacted;
 - why you didn't find it amusing.
-

Answers: April Fools' Day(B1)

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. a 6. a

C – Read and answer

1. Its purpose was to welcome the arrival of spring. 2. They focus on joy and fun during spring. 3. The new year was once celebrated around 1st April. After the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, people who continued to celebrate it in April were ridiculed. 4. It involved a nobleman sending his servant on meaningless tasks on 1st April. 5. It was backdated to 31st March to prevent any possible confusion with a trick. 6. A possible explanation is that fish are more gullible in spring because they are hungry. As a result, they are easier to catch. 7. The trick was to send someone to deliver a note that said, "Send the fool further". 8. Because they add to the flood of fake news already on the internet.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. spread 2. caught 3. vain 4. tail 5. swiftly 6. fool

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. even 2. on 3. trick 4. would 5. Though 6. that