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# April Fools' Day

WORKSHEET A

In Britain, as in many other countries, there is a special day in the year when people play practical jokes on each other and when the media invents hoax news stories. This day is called April Fools' Day, and takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Some April Fools' Day hoaxes have been very easy to spot. Examples include a television report about a dinosaur in a London park, and a supermarket advertisement for 'whistling carrots'. The supermarket advert said that when people cooked the carrots, they would start making a whistling sound as soon as they were ready to eat! Even completely ridiculous hoaxes can fool people, however. One year, when the BBC said the government was going to 'modernise' London's famous Big Ben clock by making it digital, lots of gullible people phoned the BBC to say they didn't agree with the idea. The same thing happened a few years later when the BBC invented a story about Britain suddenly having a new national anthem, with all the words in German!

One of the most famous April Fools' Day hoaxes was a BBC television programme in 1957 about 'spaghetti trees' in Switzerland. In the 1950s, most British people weren't familiar with 'foreign' food such as pasta, so the programme made thousands of people think that spaghetti really did grow on trees.

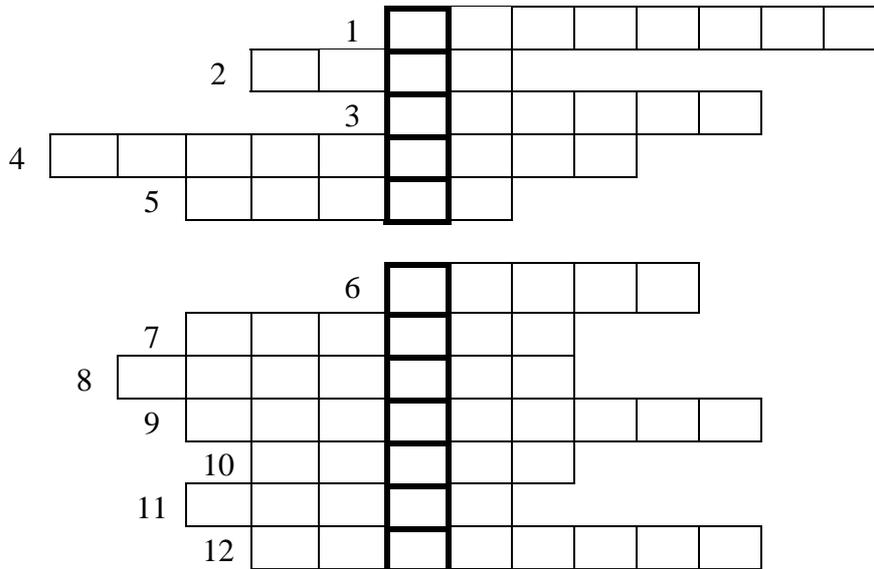
In the United States, April Fools' Day hoaxes include a 1998 advert by Burger King for a special 'left-handed' hamburger. The advert said that when a left-handed person bit into the burger, any sauce that dripped out would always fall to the right, away from their hand. Anyone who fell for that one must have felt quite embarrassed, but perhaps less embarrassed than the people in Sweden who put stockings on their televisions on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1962. Why did they do that? Because all Swedish televisions were black and white at the time, but an 'expert' had just appeared on a popular programme to say people could immediately see everything in colour if they put a nylon stocking over their sets!

# April Fools' Day

WORKSHEET B

**A**

Fill the gaps below to complete the crossword and reveal the animal a Tokyo zoo said it was going to receive on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005. The zoo told the Japanese public that the animal was 1.65m tall and weighed 80kg. Strangely, however, it never arrived.



1. People who are very \_\_\_\_\_ often fall for April Fools' jokes.
2. Burger King said the sauce in their 'left-handed' burgers would never \_\_\_\_\_ onto the hands of left-handed people.
3. Some people believed the BBC when it said Britain was going to have a new national \_\_\_\_\_ with German words.
4. The BBC once said the British government wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Big Ben by giving it a digital readout.
5. In Sweden in 1962, all televisions were black and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Spaghetti is a kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ for 'whistling carrots' was a hoax.
8. The media \_\_\_\_\_ lots of stories on April Fools' Day.
9. An April Fools' hoax took place on a TV \_\_\_\_\_ in Sweden in 1962.
10. The British supermarket didn't really have any carrots that made a \_\_\_\_\_ when they were ready to eat – it was a hoax.
11. The BBC is part of the British \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The hoax news story about a \_\_\_\_\_ was very easy to spot.

## April Fools' Day

WORKSHEET C

### B

Below are eight quotes on the subject of fools and fooling people, but they have been split into three parts and mixed up. Can you put them back together again?

1	If you wish to avoid	of the time, some of the people all of	old men <i>know</i> young men are fools.
2	Young men think old	let people think you are a fool than	or not. You can't fool them.
3	Any fool can say	fool expects to be	break your mirror.
4	You can fool all of the people some	children. They know if you really love them	wise can admit he is a fool.
5	Who is	he is wise, but only someone	the fool who follows him?
6	It is better to keep your mouth closed and	men are fools, but	to open it and remove all doubt.
7	Only a	seeing a fool, you must	happy all the time.
8	I really love pets. They're like	more foolish? The fool, or	the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.