

# April Fool's Day worksheet 1

Read and think. Write *T* (true) or *AF* (April Fool).



## True or April Fool?

Are you an April Fool? Some of these facts are true, but some of them are April Fool's jokes. They were in the newspapers and on TV – and lots of people believed them! Can you take the challenge?



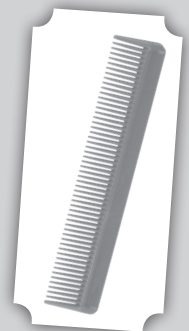
1 The world's biggest penguin lives in a zoo in Japan. It's 165 cm tall and weighs 80 kg!

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2 You can 'bend' water with a comb! Your hair should be dry. Comb it lots of times. Turn on the tap. Put the comb next to the water – the water will move towards the comb!

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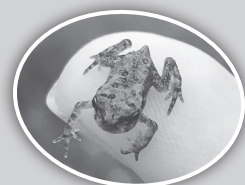

3 There's a new invention called the 'Brain Band'. It's a special headband. When you put it on your head, it helps you to study.

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4 The world's smallest frog is the same size as a fly – 7.7 millimetres! It lives in Papua New Guinea, and it can jump 30 times its body length!

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5 A family in Florida, the US, found an alligator in their swimming pool! It was about 3.5 metres long. There's a video of it swimming and having fun!

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6 A 'pinana' is a delicious tropical fruit. It tastes like a pineapple, but looks like a banana. You can now find it in a famous UK supermarket.

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# April Fool's Day worksheet 2



**Answer the questions for your country.**



Is there a special day for jokes and tricks?  
What do you do? What do people do?  
Do you know any popular jokes?  
Have you got a favourite joke? Can you tell it?



## Level 5

# Teaching notes

### April Fool's Day

These cultural notes describe both the origins of this festival, as well as its current traditions. You can explain as much as you think is relevant to your class and encourage learners to recognise and point to the relevant items on the worksheet.

- April Fool's Day, also known as All Fools' Day, is celebrated on April 1st each year. It has been well-known since the 19th century and is popular in Europe, Canada, Australia, the US and Brazil. April Fool's Day is the day when people play tricks, pranks (tricks that are intended to be funny without causing any harm) and practical jokes on one another. A practical joke is a joke that makes someone seem silly and involves a physical action rather than words. There are different theories about the origins of this custom. The most popular explanation focuses on the French calendar reform in the 16th century. Up until then, most people in Europe celebrated the New Year around the March Equinox. The new calendar moved this date from the end of March to January 1st. Every year after the reform, some people would forget about the change or deliberately stick to the old calendar system and celebrate the New Year during the week that fell between March 25th and April 1st. These people started to have jokes and pranks played on them. For instance, pranksters would secretly stick paper fish to their backs, which is why the victims started to be called *Poisson d'Avril*, which means 'April Fish'.
- In the UK and many countries around the world, people celebrate April Fool's Day by playing pranks and practical jokes on each other. The most harmless jokes may involve children telling each other that their shoelaces are undone and then calling their victims, 'April Fool!' when they look at their feet. Children enjoy this day at home and at school. Teachers and families tell them to have fun playing pranks, as long as they don't hurt anyone or damage property. Other typical fun pranks include UFOs landing, giant penguins, or even changing the value of Pi to 3.0 to make maths problems easier! Mostly, people play practical jokes on this day. Sometimes even the media or different businesses also take part.

### April Fool's Day worksheet 1

- **Pre-activity:** Start the lesson by telling a fake piece of news (a hoax) to learners, in a serious tone. Say *Have you heard the news? Last night, a UFO – an alien spaceship – was flying over London! Lots of people saw it and called the police!* Check learners' reaction and carry on with the joke. Then smile and say *April Fool!* Say that this happened in the UK on April Fool's Day a long time ago, and that the 'spaceship' was a hot air balloon. Say that on this day, 'false' pieces of news are very popular in newspapers and on TV. Say *Let's take a look at some of them!*
- Read the instructions with learners, and if necessary, pre-teach some possibly new vocabulary using the photos, e.g. *headband, alligator, pineapple, (water) tap*. You may also need to pre-teach *brain* and *bend*. Individually, learners read the facts and decide if they're true or 'April Fool', writing *T* or *AF* in the boxes. If your class needs extra support, tell them there are three true and three 'April Fool' facts. Learners can compare their answers in pairs before checking them. Check answers with learners and tell them the additional facts from the Key below. Learners count their 'right' and 'wrong' answers and see if they've been fooled!

**Key:** 1 AF (it was a man dressed up in a penguin suit), 2 T (this is a simple experiment to see static electricity in action), 3 AF (This was in a news programme. 47% of the children who heard the news wanted to get a 'Brain Band!'), 4 T (it was discovered in 2009), 5 T (it went through a screen door in the house to get to the pool), 6 AF (the supermarket played this joke in 2009)

- **Optional follow-up activities:** Learners rank the 'April Fool' facts from 3 to 1 – from the cleverest to the silliest. They do the same for the true facts – this time they rank them from the most to the least interesting / surprising. In pairs, learners compare their answers.
- For homework, learners can do the experiment from fact 2 and find a video on the internet of the alligator from fact 5. They can also find out more facts about the smallest frog in the world (fact 4), such as *Where's Papua New Guinea? (in the Pacific Ocean, to the north of Australia), What's the name of the frog? (paedophryne amanuensis)*.

## April Fool's Day worksheet 2

- Individually, learners think of answers to the questions. In pairs, learners share their ideas. Ask learners to share their ideas with the class. Ask the class to vote on the best / worst joke.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** In pairs, learners write an original joke. They then tell their joke to another pair. The class votes on the best original joke.