

~~Funny family jokes~~

Ed: it's not about funny families

~~Funny jokes for families~~

Ed: no tautology please

Best jokes ever

oh really?

Jokes ~~I think~~ are funny

err...nobody cares what you think!

**JUST JOKES, OK?**

Ed: I suppose that has to do, but please  
make sure you remove the comments



and delete that picture!



collected by David Beskine

# JUST JOKES, OK?

collected by  
David Beskine

First published in Amazon/Kindle in 2015 under the title  
Classic One-Liners and Short Witty Jokes

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Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not;  
a sense of humor to console him for what he is.

*Sir Francis Bacon*

## **ABOUT THE COLLECTOR OF THESE JOKES**

David Beskine lives in London and is a parent of twin boys in their early 20s at the time of publication.

For many years he organised campaigns for the Ramblers' Association, the voluntary body protecting and promoting public access on foot to the countryside. He was also vice-chairman of the Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest national conservation organisation. The author had dozens of local and nationwide campaign successes, three of the most well-known being:

- Winning the long-sought statutory "right to roam" on foot over mapped open countryside in England and Wales in 2000
- The defeat of government proposals to privatise the Forestry Commission, the largest landowner in the UK, because of the lack of protection for the right to roam already allowed on its land, in 1994
- The statutory protection of public access to water-gathering grounds when the water authorities were privatised in 1989

In 2001, the author turned another interest and hobby - house renovation - into a full-time job. He recruited a team of highly skilled builders and founded a building company specialising in the renovation of older houses and flats in London. A member of the Federation of Master Builders, the author continues to date as chief executive of his building company.

In 2016, the author turned yet another interest - expertise built up by individuals and their contribution to the wider community - into a job by founding the publisher Fidelity Books. Fidelity specialises in knowledge, experience and expertise in topics covering individuals, families, home, work and the wider community.

Proposals for future publications are welcome from authors who have knowledge, experience or expertise which they have developed and wish to pass on to others.

## INTRODUCTION

I have conspicuously failed in one area of life: publishing a jokes book. Success has eluded me. Or so says the greatest of online publishers, Amazon/Kindle.

You are now reading the second edition of my jokes book. I originally published the first edition on Kindle in 2015. I sold five copies.

When I say that I sold five copies, I mean a net result of four. One of the five demanded a refund. It was a stab to the heart.

### Banned by Kindle

I thought that four people actually paying money for my jokes book and not asking for a refund was quite good. But rather than congratulating me, Kindle responded to what I considered to be a medium-high level of sales by closing down my account.

To me, every single reader is important. Every sale is an achievement. But Kindle obviously thought otherwise. They deemed me a failure. They excoriated me by email. They condemned me and my books to oblivion. An outcast from the internet. Exiled from the ether.

But Kindle failed in their attempt to ban my book. It is now back, in its second edition!

### Good jokes

I was brought up with and laughed at *Monty Python* and *The Goodies* during my teens. To me, my siblings and my contemporaries at school, these were not just funny, but hilarious. The jokes were original and the wit was keen.

At home, we also enjoyed Tommy Cooper, Kenneth Williams, Bennie Hill and the earlier *Carry On* films.

As an apparent adult, I then enjoyed decades more humour, mirth and endless jokes thanks to Radio 4 from the BBC: *Just A Minute*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, *The News Quiz* and *Dead Ringers*. Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant!

After more than two decades of puzzling over the punch line of one particular joke (the weekly game of "Mornington Crescent" on *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*), I eventually worked it out. It was so funny it was worth waiting over 20 years to understand. I can explain the joke to anybody who emails me and makes a sufficiently worthwhile offer.

## **Not such good jokes**

But there seems to have been the passing of an age of innocence in broadcast humour. In recent years, humour sometimes appears to be based on breaking taboos. On uttering what were hitherto socially unutterable words. As if simply speaking the unspeakable and displaying the undisplayable were funny. And sometimes giving a job to a comedian for reasons other than their talent.

It was these developments which prompted me to start thinking about which jokes were funny and which were not.

I was getting fed up with the lack of good jokes. And as I grew older, I became increasingly intolerant of un-funny jokes.

Jokes where the humour was solely based upon saying swear or obscene words or ridiculing people. Jokes where comedians betrayed, knowingly or otherwise, their dislike of, or hatred towards, a particular group of people.

Jokes that were simply a display of vulgarity, as if there was something intrinsically funny about saying, doing or showing in public something vulgar.

Or jokes that were just not very funny, but delivered in a regional accent. Were we supposed to smile and patronisingly say, well done, as if it were impossible to find good comedians with regional accents?

## **Collecting and testing jokes**

I was so fed up with comedians whom I found embarrassing and jokes which did not make me laugh that I began looking for jokes which I did find funny. I discovered that old jokes were the best, although there is a place for good, new ones.

I collected the best jokes - by which I mean the ones that made me and my family laugh. I found that I liked short, witty jokes and old-fashioned one-liners.

I tested my favourite jokes by reading them after dinner to my family. If there was no laughter – in the bin they went. But my family soon got fed up with that so I binned the unsuccessful jokes instead.

And here are the jokes, just for you, dear reader. Every one tried and tested on the family and deemed worthy of inclusion in the book.

Any failings, however, are attributable solely to me, not my family. I did sometimes wonder what they were laughing and groaning at when I said, “Here’s a new joke...”

## WHO WROTE THESE JOKES?

The jokes in this book are in the public domain. They are repeated endless times from person to person.

But who wrote each joke?

If you, dear reader, can identify the author of any joke or if you are he or she, then please email me and let me know.

I will be delighted in the next edition to give credit to the authors: it is richly deserved!

But as for a fee: making us all laugh is, I think, payment enough?

DB

London 2017

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Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand

*Mark Twain*

There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious  
as laughter and good humour.

*Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

## ONE-LINERS

A seal walks into a club.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

I went to the paper shop but it had blown away.

I went to buy camouflage trousers but I couldn't find any.

I saw a man chatting up a cheetah and thought, "He's trying to pull a fast one."

My therapist said I have a preoccupation with vengeance: we'll see about that.

My psychiatrist said I'm mad so I asked for a second opinion: she said I'm ugly.

I don't suffer from insanity: I enjoy it.

If four out of five people suffer from diarrhoea, does that mean one enjoys it?

I went to the zoo but there was only one dog there: it was a Shih Tzu.



I tried water polo but my horse couldn't get used to it.

I backed a horse last week at ten to one: it came in at quarter past four.

Jump-leads walk into a bar and the barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Ninety-nine percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Borrow money from pessimists: they won't expect it back.

Never answer an anonymous letter.

Few women admit their age; few men act it.

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Laugh alone and the world thinks you're an idiot.

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Give me ambiguity or give me something else.

Nobody's perfect: I'm nobody.

Don't steal: the government hates competition.

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

87% of arguments are won with the use of false statistics.

This statement is false.

All generalizations are false.

Eschew obfuscation.

I like to use words irregardless of their existence.

What's another word for "Thesaurus"?

They told me I was gullible and I believed them.

If at first you don't succeed, don't try skydiving.

You don't need a parachute to skydive: you need a parachute to skydive twice.

It's not the fall that kills you, it's the sudden stop at the end.

Never hit a man with glasses: hit him with something heavier.

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges?

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

It's bad luck to be superstitious.

Ask me about my vow of silence.

According to my best recollection, I don't remember.

Honk if you like peace and quiet.

Save the whales: collect the whole set.

I don't find it hard to meet my expenses: they're everywhere.

I let my mind wander and it didn't come back.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Corduroy pillows are making headlines

There are three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was useless when it came to kick-boxing.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Laugh at your problems: everybody else does!

Sometimes I wake up grumpy: other times I let her sleep.

Always go to other people's funerals, or they won't go to yours.

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

When in doubt, mumble.

I didn't use to finish sentences, but now I

I've had amnesia for as long as I can remember.

I can handle pain until it hurts.

He who smiles in a crisis has found someone to blame.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

For every action there is an equal and opposite criticism.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Nothing is fool-proof to a sufficiently talented fool.

My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right.

I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realise I should have been more specific.

My girlfriend thinks I'm a stalker: well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

Whoever coined the phrase "Quiet as a mouse" never stepped on one.

Whoever coined the phrase "As easy as taking candy from a baby" obviously never tried.

If tempted to fight fire with fire, remember the Fire Brigade uses water.

If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your trousers.

Always remember you're unique - just like everyone else.

Be nice to your kids: they'll choose your nursing home.

No matter where you go, you're there.

If everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Gravity: it gets me down.

Atheism: a non-prophet organisation.

Shinbones: nature's devices for finding furniture in dark rooms.

Camping: nature's way of feeding mosquitoes.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

Diplomats: people who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Diplomacy: the art of letting someone else get your way

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.

It's lonely at the top, but you do eat better.

If we weren't supposed to eat animals, why are they made with meat?

Experience: the name men give to their mistakes.

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

Energizer Bunny arrested: charged with battery.

Bills travel through the post at twice the speed of cheques.

Holidays begin when Dad says, "I know a short cut."



## SHORT, WITTY JOKES

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole one and asked for forgiveness.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

Children: you spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 years telling them to sit down and be quiet.

If you are supposed to learn from your mistakes, why do some people have more than one child?

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

If you think nobody cares you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Some people are like Slinkies: not really good for anything, but you can't help smiling when you see them tumble down the stairs.

How can one careless match start a forest fire when it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the edge of the pool and throw them fish?

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove you don't need it.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Never get into fights with ugly people, they have nothing to lose.

Some people cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.

A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

Money can't buy happiness, but it makes misery easier to live with.

Worrying works. 90% of the things I worry about never happen.

I like work. It fascinates me. I sit and look at it for hours.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it than when you are in it.

I got in a fight one time with a really big guy who said, "I'm going to mop the floor with your face."

I said, "You'll be sorry."

He said, "Oh yeah? Why?"

I said, "Well, you won't be able to get into the corners very well."

I cleaned the attic with the wife the other day. Now I can't get the cobwebs out of her hair.

I'll tell you what I love doing more than anything - trying to pack myself in a small suitcase. I can hardly contain myself.

Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.

You are such a good friend that if we were on a sinking ship together and there was only one life jacket, I'd miss you heaps and think of you often.

If winning isn't everything why do they keep score?

I read somewhere that when someone is about to quote a bogus fact or statistic, they preface it by saying, "I read somewhere".

I failed my driving test when the examiner asked what I do if the traffic lights are red. I told him I check for texts, read my emails and send a few Tweets.

In the past we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope and Steve Jobs. Now, unfortunately, we have no Cash, no Hope and no Jobs. So, let's hope Kevin Bacon lives forever!

I went to the doctor the other day and he said: "Go to Bournemouth, it's great for flu." So I went - and got it.

Two aerals meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The reception was brilliant.

A lorry-load of tortoises crashed into a train-load of terrapins. It was a turtle disaster.

A man entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

I was having dinner with Garry Kasparov (world chess champion) and there was a check tablecloth. It took him two hours to pass me the salt.

I'm in a great mood tonight because the other day I entered a competition and I won a year's supply of Marmite - one jar.

I sent my girlfriend a huge pile of snow. I rang her up and said: "Did you get my drift?"

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He sidles up to the bar and says, "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."

Four fonts walk into a bar. The barman says, "Oi - get out. We don't want your type in here."

A man walks into a bar with a roll of Tarmac under his arm and says, "Pint please, and one for the road."

A priest, a rabbi and a vicar walk into a bar. The barman says, "Is this some kind of joke?"

Slept like a log last night. Woke up in the fireplace.

I met a Dutch girl with inflatable shoes last week. Phoned her up for a date but she'd popped her clogs.

When Susan's boyfriend proposed, she said, "I love the simple things in life, but I don't want one of them for my husband."

I rang up BT and said, "I want to report a nuisance caller."  
They replied, "Not you again."

Two fish in a tank. One says, "How do you drive this thing?"

I complained to my doctor that I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home. He said, "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome."  
"Is it common?" I asked.  
"It's not unusual," he replied.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their tournament victories. After an hour, the manager came out and asked them to disperse.  
"But why?" they asked.  
"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Police arrested two kids yesterday: one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one - and let the other one off.

Grandad complained to his grandson:

“Young people today! Your entire life depends on technology.”

“I totally disagree with you, Grandad. It’s you that’s dependent upon technology,”  
the young man replied, pulling the plug out of his life support machine.

And finally, a classic from Tommy Cooper: “I asked a gym instructor, can you teach me to do the splits?”. The instructor replied "How flexible are you?"

I told him "I can't make Tuesdays."

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

Enjoy the short jokes and one-liners collected by David Beskine.

The jokes were collected and published in response to the spread of broadcast humour based on vulgar, sexist or taboo-breaking comedians.

The collector found it embarrassing and uncomfortable listening to unfunny and vulgar jokes so started to collect jokes he did find funny.

This book has a plethora of jokes based on wit, puns, irony and double entendres.

Jokes which are supposed to be funny. But that of course is a decision for each reader or listener to make!

Jokes which can be memorised and produced in a wide range of social gatherings or at home with the family.

Here is a jokes book hopefully full of classic jokes that will endure for decades.

Timeless humour that will produce a smile now and in years to come.

## JUST JOKES, OK?

A collection of good jokes. One-liners and short witty jokes.

Tested on the collector's long-suffering family. Jokes to make you laugh.

Or to make you cry, depending upon your level of sophistication.

Or to send you to sleep, if you are really grumpy and cold-hearted.

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