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LES LANGUES VIVANTES

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The ~~funniest~~ one and only multilingual joke book



XD

Laughter and humour are something that everyone can understand – a universal language that brings people together and can help to create a sense of unity. In breaking down cultural barriers, fostering communication, and often diffusing tense situations, humour can bring light to even the darkest moments and can definitely help to bridge our differences. It has even been said that ‘laughter is the shortest distance between two people’.

Language plays a crucial role in humour, as jokes and comedy in general rely on puns, double meanings, and clever twists of words to bring a smile to our faces, make us chuckle or even burst out laughing. In some cases, jokes even blend in different languages and are thus ideally suited for bilingual or multilingual speakers. Those are, of course, our favourite ones!

As one of the initiatives of the 2022 European Day of Languages (EDL), people were invited to submit their favourite jokes in the language/s they were familiar with. We have now compiled a selection of just some of them within this joke book. To create this collection, we prioritised word plays over typical jokes, as they provide a unique window into the ways in which languages are constructed and how different cultures and languages use humour to connect with one another. The selection is exclusively comprised

of jokes submitted by users, so if you find your language underrepresented, please feel free to submit a linguistic joke on the website (edl.ecml.at/jokebook)! Let’s keep them rolling in to generate a volume 2!

Whether a language lover, a joke aficionado, or just someone who enjoys a good laugh, we hope you will thoroughly enjoy this linguistic journey through the world of humour! In the words of Victor Hugo, “Le rire est le soleil qui chasse l’hiver du visage humain” (*Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face*)!

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this joke book – either by actually submitting jokes, or by laughing at some of them. A special word of gratitude also goes to our ‘resident cartoonist’, Benoît, for his wonderful drawings.

Content

Jokes that only work in certain languages	4
Jokes that work in all languages	34
Jokes and puns in English involving other languages/countries	48
Linguistic chat-up lines	51

Jokes that only work in certain languages

The jokes listed below work in one or more similar languages but not in all tongues. They often highlight the charm of a specific language and can thus provide a window into the way of thinking of its speakers. For those that work in several languages, we have decided to keep them in the original language of submission.

Armenian HY

Ինչո՞ւ են ժամացոյցների դիմաց դոյլեր դնում: Քանի որ ժամերը յետ են տալիս:

Why are they placing buckets in front of the clocks? Because they are vomiting/ turning [them back].

Explanation: “ժամ” [jam] can mean time or clock, and “յետ են տալիս” [het en talis] can mean both “are turning back” or “are vomiting”. So the final part can mean: “because they are turning back the clocks” – signifying that it’s autumn and time will move back by an hour. Alternatively, it can suggest: “because the clocks are throwing up”, hence placing the buckets before them. So watch out for Armenian clocks!

Bosnian BS

Znaš kako prepoznati žensku i mušku ribu?
Baciš malo hljeba u akvarij i ako je pojeo – onda je muško, a ako je pojela – žensko je!

How to find out if the goldfish in the fishbowl is male or female? You put food in and if it ate[la; feminine form] – then it’s female, and if it ate[o; masculine form] – it’s male!

Explanation: in this language, as well as in other Slavic tongues, the verbs in the past form are conjugated according to their gender. Here “pojeo” is masculine, while “pojela” is feminine. Although somewhat absurd, this joke is strictly related to language and grammar.

Catalan

“Com es diu aquella muntanya?” – “Quina...?”
– “Ah, i aquella altra?”

“What is the name of that mountain?” – “Which-one [Quina]?” – “Oh, and that other one?”

Explanation: in Catalan, “quina” is used as “which”. Here, the joke relies on the idea that “quina” could be the name of the mountain.

Hi havia un home que cada dos per tres, sis.

There was a man who “every two by three”, six.

Explanation: in Catalan, the expression “cada dos per tres” means “very often”, while “dos per tres” means “two times three”, hence six.

Què diu un semàfor a un altre? — No em miris que m'estic canviant!

“What does one traffic light say to another?” – “Don’t look at me, I’m getting changed!”

“M’han ofert la possibilitat de fer dos cursets, un de paleta i un d’esgrima.” – “I quin dels dos faràs?” – “Encara no ho sé, és un gran dilema; estic entre l’espasa i la paret!”

“They have offered me the possibility of taking two courses, one in masonry and one in fencing.” – “And which of the two will you do?” – “I don’t know yet, it’s a big dilemma; I’m between ‘a sword and the wall!’”

Explanation: in Catalan, “to be between a sword and the wall” means “to be between a rock and a hard place”.

“Anem al döner?” – “Kebab, no tinc un durum.!”

“Do you want to go to the döner?” – “Kebab’, I don’t have a ‘durum!’”

Explanation: this one is based on several word plays. The first is “kebab” as “què va”, itself an expression coming from Spanish to refuse something. Then “durum” is similar to “duro”, the informal name of the old five “peseta” coins. “No tenir un duro” is itself an informal expression meaning “to be broke.” This is an example of how some Catalan speakers code-switch between Spanish and Catalan.

“Ho sento, no m’agraden els laberints.” – “Doncs no saps el que et perds!”

“Sorry, I don’t like mazes.” – “Well, you don’t know what you’re ‘losing’!”

Explanation: “to be a zero to the right” means, in Catalan, “to be of no use”.

“Saps per què no es pot discutir amb un DJ?” – “Perquè sempre estan canviant de tema”.

“Do you know why you can’t argue with a DJ?” – “Because they are always changing the subject”.

Explanation: in Catalan, a “cataracta” has the same meaning as the English “cataract”. Besides that, an officially non-accepted but still often used word to refer to big waterfalls is “cataracta” (in Catalan “cascada” or “salt d’aigua”).

“Per què va tenir un infart la impressora?” – “Sembla que va tenir una impressió molt forta.”

“Why did the printer have a heart attack?” – “It looks like it had a very strong impression.”

Explanation: in Catalan, “perdre’s alguna cosa”, that is “to lose (itself)” something can have both the meaning of “losing something” or “missing out on something”.

“Buff! Jo per les matemàtiques sóc un zero a la dreta!” – “Un zero a l’esquerra, deus voler dir...” – “Doncs això, ho veus?”

“Buff! I’m a ‘zero to the right’ for math!” – “A zero to the left, you mean...” – “You see, that’s what I meant!”

Explanation: in Catalan, a “tema” can be both a “topic” or “subject” and a “track”, as in music.

“El meu oncle va morir de cataractes.” – “Caram és estrany... I no el van operar?” – “No, uns malparits el van empènyer!!!”

“My uncle died of cataracts.” – “Darn, that’s strange... And didn’t he get surgery?” – “No, some bad guys pushed him!”

Explanation: in Catalan, a “printer” is an “impressora”, and to “print” translates as “imprimir”, the substantive of which is “impressió”. However, “to make a strong impression” translates as “donar una forta impressió”.

Què li diu una ballarina a una altra? “Ep, tu, el teu tutú!”

What does one dancer say to another? “Hey you, your tutu!”

Explanation: another pun, this time with the word “tu” (“you”), and “tutú” (“tutu”).

“Amor meu, has vist la meva crema reafirmant?”
– “Sí, sí, sí, sí, sí, sí !!”

“My love, have you seen my firming cream?” – “Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!”

Explanation: in Catalan, “cream reafirmant” literally translates as “reaffirming cream”.

Per què la NASA retalla el pressupost? Perquè no estan per tirar coets!

Why is NASA cutting the budget? Because they “are not for shooting rockets”!

Explanation: “estar per tirar coets” means to “celebrate”.



Si la Terra és rodona i l'anomenen planeta, si fos plana l'anomenarien rodoneta?

If the Earth is round and they call it a planet, if it were flat would they call it “roundet”?

Explanation: in Catalan, a “planeta” is both the name for “planet” and the diminutive feminine adjective for “flat”, while the same adjective form for “round” would be “rodoneta”, coming from “rodona”.

“Com podem organitzar una festa en un avió?”

– “Bé, primer l’hem de planejar...”

“How can we organize a party on a plane?” – “Well, we have to plan it first...”

Explanation: in Catalan, “planejar” has two meanings: “to plan”, but also “to glide”.

“Hola, teniu llibres sobre el cansament?” –

“Sí, pero estan esgotats.”

Hi, do you have books about tiredness? Yes, but they are exhausted.

Explanation: in Catalan, “esgotat” can both mean “exhausted” and “to be out of print”, as in an “out-of-print book”.

Si estàs molt acomplexat, tens un complexe industrial?

If you are very “complexed”, do you have an industrial complex?

Explanation: in Catalan, the expression “estar acomplexat” roughly translates as “being self-conscious about something”. Moreover, the adjective “industrial” is used not only regarding “industry” itself, but also to denote something very big.

“M’ha dit el metge que els meus ossos estan descalcificats.” – “Bé, l’important és que hagin participat.”

“The doctor told me that my bones are decalcified.” – “Well, the important thing is that they participated.”

Explanation: this joke relies on several word plays. To start, the words for “bone” and “bear” in Catalan are homophones, meaning that they are pronounced in almost the same way, as “os” and “ós” respectively. Moreover, “descalcificat” is similar to “desqualificat”, which translates as “decalcified” and “disqualified”.

Explanation: in Catalan, “construction sites” translates as “obres”, and “fences” as “tanques”. Meanwhile, the verbs for “opening” and “closing” are “obrir” and “tancar”, which in the second person singular form (or “you” form) are conjugated as “(tu) obres” and “(tu) tanques” hence the pun.

Per què gairebé totes les obres tenen tanques?

Why do almost all construction sites have fences?

Aquell càmping era tan dolent que el van rebatejar “Càmping qui pugui”.

That campsite was so bad that they named it “Everyone for themselves”.

Explanation: in Catalan, the first word of the expression “campi qui pugui” is very similar to “càmping”, or a campsite. This expression translates as “everyone for themselves”.

No és cert això de que la bellesa està a l’interior – a la costa també hi ha gent molt atractiva.

It is not true that beauty is on the inside – on the coast, there are very attractive people, too.

Explanation: in Catalan, it is common to refer to continental provinces as “the interior”.

Què amagaran en aquest anagrama?

What is there hidden in this anagram?

Explanation: this pun relies on the words “amagaran” (third person singular of the future tense of “amagar”, or “to hide”) and “anagrama” (“anagram”).

L’estrany cas de la paraula francesa “foie”: s’escriu amb 3 de les 5 vocals i es pronuncia amb les 2 que falten.

The strange case of the French word “foie”: it is spelled with 3 of the 5 vowels but pronounced with the 2 that are missing. Explanation: the word “foie” is written with the vowels “o”, “i”, and “e”, but is pronounced .

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Explanation: the correct form of speaking about oneself and someone else is mentioning oneself always after the other person, hence “Pere and I” and not “me and Pere”.

“Jo i el Pere vam anar a...” – “Incorrecte! És ‘el Pere i jo vam anar...’” – “D’acord, espavilat, jo no hi era!”

“Me and Pere went to...” – “Wrong! It is ‘Pere and I went...’” – “Okay, you smart aleck, I wasn’t there!”

Dutch

Waarom kan een ei niet bevriezen? Er zit een dooier in.

Why can't an egg freeze? Answer: there's an egg yolk inside of it.

Explanation: “dooier” means yolk, but a word similar to it, “dooien”, means to defrost or thaw.

Ken je de mop van de mummie? Ingewikkeld hè?

Have you ever heard of the joke about the mummy? Complicated, isn't it?

Explanation: in Dutch, the word “ingewikkeld” means complicated, but it can also mean “wrapped” or “swaddled”.

Ik zie soms dubbel, maar dat kan mij niets schelen.

Sometimes I see double, but I don't care.

Explanation: “dat kan mij niets schelen” is an expression that means “I don't care”. The pun here is based on the word “schelen”, which is similar to “schele” or “scheel”, meaning “cross-eyed”.

Een vriend zegt tegen een andere vriend: “Ik wil succesvol zijn, dus ik word voetballer!” De andere vriend antwoordt: “Word bokser, meer kans op slagen”.

A friend says to another friend: “I want to be successful, so I will become a footballer!” The other friend replies: “Become a boxer, the success rate is higher.”

Explanation: “slagen” means both to succeed and to get hit.

Er zwemmen twee vissen in de zee, de een komt uit Nederland, de ander uit Engeland. De Engelse vis ziet de Nederlandse vis, zwaait met zijn vin en zegt: “Hi!” De Nederlandse vis raakt in paniek en zegt: “Waar?! Waar?!”

Two fish are swimming in the sea, one is from Holland, the other is from England. The English fish sees the Dutch fish, waves his fin, and says: ‘Hi!’ The Dutch fish panics and says: “Where?! Where?!”

Explanation: In Dutch, the word “haai”, which sounds like “hi”, means shark.

De chirurg is erg gehecht aan zijn patiënt.

The surgeon is very attached to his patient.

Explanation: “gehecht” can translate as both “attached” and “stitched”.

Estonian ET

Eesti kiirabi tunnuslause: “Aeg parandab kõik haavad”.

The catchphrase of the Estonian ambulance: “Time heals all wounds”.



English EN

What do you call a train carrying bubble gum? A chew-chew train.

Why did the man fall off the well? Because he could not see that well.

What's the difference between a fly and a mosquito? A mosquito can fly, but a fly can't "mosquito"!

Did you know that 10 plus 10 is the same as 11 plus 11? Because ten plus ten is twenty, and eleven plus eleven is twenty-too.

The past, the present, and the future walked into a bar... It was tense.

Why do we tell actors to break a leg? Because every play has a cast.

What is a cow's favourite place to go? The "mooovies".

To whom do mice pray? "Cheesus".

Did you hear about the guy who invented the knock-knock joke? He won the Nobel Prize.



The other day I was walking down the road and a man started to throw milk, cheese and butter at me. How dairy!

Why did the banana go to the hospital? Because he wasn't peeling too well.

What's the favourite subject of a snake? "Hiss-tory"

Always borrow money from a pessimist. They'll never expect it back.

What sounds like a sneeze and is made out of leather? A shoe!

What did the green grass say to the yellow grass? Hay!

The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.

How would you call an invasion of worms in the whole world? Global "worming".



What do you call a fish with no eye? "Fsh".

My flatmate just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the ceiling!

Where's the English Channel? I don't know – our television doesn't pick it up.

I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off...

What do you call a magic dog? A "labracadabrador".

What did the ocean say to the beach?" "Nothing, it just waved.

Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.

What do you get when you add clocks to a belt? A waist of time!

Finnish FI

Vaimoni on alkanut polttaa sängyssä. Ei savukkeita, vaan kalaa.

My husband started smoking in bed. Not cigarettes, fish.

Explanation: In Finnish, as in English, “smoking” can refer to cigarettes as well as (smoked) fish.



French FR

Une poule dit à un canard: « Il fait un froid de canard! ». « M'en parle pas... J'ai la chair de poule! »

A hen says to a duck: “It’s freezing cold!”. “Tell me about it... I’ve got goosebumps!”

Explanation: in French, “faire un froid de canard” literally translates as “to be duck cold” and means “to be freezing cold”. On the other hand, the expression for “having goosebumps” is “avoir la chair de poule”, which literally translates as “having hen skin”.

Si mille vaches ont la Covid-19, peut-on dire qu’il y a mille cas ? [Milka]

If a thousand cows have Covid-19, can we say that there are a thousand cases?

Explanation: in French, “a thousand cases” translates as “mille cas”, which, in turn, sounds like “Milka”, the chocolate brand that uses a cow as its image.

Qu'est ce qui commence par un e, qui finit par un e et qui ne contient qu'une seule lettre ? Une enveloppe.

What starts with an e, ends with an e and contains just one letter? An envelope.

Que demande un footballeur à son coiffeur ? La coupe du monde.

What does a footballer ask his hairdresser? The World Cup.

Explanation: in French, the word “coupe” can both mean a “cup” or a “hairstyle”, as in “une coup de cheveux”.

« Il emmenait son chien à l'école tous les jours, mais il a dû arrêter ». – « Et pourquoi ? » – « Parce que le chien a eu son diplôme ».

“He took his dog to school every day but he had to stop”. – “Why?” – “Because it graduated”.

Explanation: in French, “a eu un/le diplôme” is the past perfect form of “avoir un/le diplôme”, which literally translates as “get a certificate” but means “to graduate”.

Comment appelle-t-on un chat tombé dans un pot de peinture le 25 décembre? – Un chat-peint de Noël.

What's the name of a cat in a paint bucket on the 25th of December? A Christmas “chat-peint”.

Explanation: “Chat peint de Noël” means “Christmas-painted cat”, while the similarly sounding “sapin de Noel” signifies Christmas tree.



*il arrêta d'emmener son
chien tous les jours à l'école :
le chien a eu son diplôme !
"wow!"*

German DE

Was steht auf dem Grab einer Reinigungskraft?
„Ich kehre nie wieder“.

What is written on the grave of a cleaner? "I'm never coming back".

Explanation: as in English, "to be on the house" means that something is given for free.

Egal, wie gut du schläfst, Albert schläft wie Einstein.

No matter how well you sleep, Albert sleeps like "Einstein".

Explanation: "pen pal" is "Brieffreund" in German (coming from "Brief" or "letter", and "Freund" or "friend"), so if the same logic were applied using the word "Brie", then a "brie friend" would be "ein Brieffreund".

Explanation: in German, "wiederkehren" means to "come back". Alternatively, "kehren" can also mean to "sweep" as in sweeping the floor, while "wieder kehren" signifies to "sweep again".

Was kostet ein Dach? Nichts, es geht aufs Haus.

How much is a roof? Nothing, it's on the house.

Explanation: "Einstein" in German is the surname of the well-known physician, but "ein Stein" means a stone.

„Du schickst dir mit einem Franzosen Käse per Post?“ – „Ja, das ist mein Brieffreund“.

You're sending cheese by post with a Frenchman? Yes, that's my pen pal.

Was sagt der große Stift zum kleinen? – Wachsmal, Stift.

What does the big pen say to the small one? – Just grow, pen.

Explanation: in German, “wachs” can mean both “grow” (as in getting bigger) and “wax” (as in a children’s pen made of wax). So, while the big pen is asking the small pen to “grow,” the small pen interprets it as a request to “wax” or write.

Was ist grün und sauer und versteckt sich vor der Polizei? – Ein „Essig-Schurke“.

What’s green, sour, and hides from the police? – A “vinegar scoundrel”.

Explanation: this joke is a play on the words “Essig” (vinegar) and “Schurke” (scoundrel) instead of the popular food “Essiggurke” (pickled gherkin). The combination creates the amusing term “Essig-Schurkerl”, or “vinegar scoundrel”.

Warum klaut Robin Hood Deodorant? – Um es unter den Armen zu verteilen.

Why does Robin Hood steal deodorant? – To distribute it under the arms.

Explanation: “unter den Armen” can mean both “under the arms” and “among the poor”.

Explanation: “raffiniert” can mean both “refined” or “smart”.

Warum ist Zucker schlauer als Salz? – Weil er raffiniert ist.

Why is sugar smarter than salt? – Because it is refined.

Explanation: “Spielt keine Rolle” can mean “It does not matter” and “He/She doesn’t play a role (in a film or theater play)”.

Was macht ein arbeitsloser Schauspieler? – Spielt keine Rolle.

What does an unemployed actor do? – Doesn’t matter.

„Medkiametne.“ – „Du hast dich vertippt.“ – „Sie sind verschreibungspflichtig.“

“Medcinei” – “That’s a typo there.” – “They are available only on prescription.”

Explanation: in German, “verschreiben” can mean both “to make a mistake while writing” as well as “prescribing”.



Was essen Autos am liebsten? – Parkplätzchen.

What do cars like to eat best? – (Small) parking spots.

Explanation: this pun relies on the word “Plätzchen”, which can be both the diminutive form of “Platz”, meaning “spot” or “place”, and a type of biscuit usually eaten over the Christmas period.

Was ist orange und geht auf den Berg? Eine Wanderine.

What is orange and goes up the mountain? A Wanderine.

Explanation: here the pun relies on combining the word “Mandarine”, meaning “mandarin”, and “wandern”, that is “to wander”.

Was trinken Führungskräfte? – Leitungswasser.

What do executives drink? – Tap water.

Explanation: “Leitungswasser” translates as “tap water”, but one of the two words forming this combined word, “Leitung”, means “management”.

Egal wie viele CDs du hast, Carl Benz hatte Mercedes.

No matter how many CDs you have, Carl Benz had Mercedes.

Explanation: the car brand “Mercedes” sounds like “mehr CDs”, meaning “more CDs”.

Was liegt am Strand und spricht undeutlich? – Eine Muschel.

What lies on the beach and speaks indistinctly? – A shell.

Explanation: in German, the word “Muschel” or “shell” sounds like the informal word “nuscheln” or “to mumble”.

„Herr Ober! Zahlen bitte!“ – „6, 45, 123, 1, 234, 21, ...“

“Waiter! To pay please!” – “6, 45, 123, 1, 234, 21, ...“

Explanation: in German, “zahlen” can be both “to pay” and “to count”.

Wieso können Skelette schlecht lügen? – Weil sie so gut zu durchschauen sind.

Why are skeletons so bad at lying? – Because they are so transparent.

Explanation: in German, “durchschauen” can be both “look through” and “to figure something out”.

Was sitzt auf einem Baum und winkt? — Ein „Huhu“!

What is sitting on a tree and waving? – A “Huhu”!

Explanation: in German, “huhu” is a greeting, while “Uhu” signifies an “owl”.

Was ist ein Keks unter einem Baum? –
Ein schattiges Plätzchen.

What is a biscuit under a tree? – A shady spot.

Explanation: in German, “Plätzchen” can be both the diminutive form of “Platz”, meaning “spot”, and a type of biscuit usually eaten over the Christmas period.

Unterhalten sich zwei Kerzen: „Ist Wasser eigentlich gefährlich?“ – „Davon kannst du ausgehen“.

*Two candles are talking: “Is water actually dangerous?”
– “You can assume it is.”*

Explanation: “ausgehen” can mean both “to assume” and “to go out” as in the case of a candle.



„Weil es dann nicht mehr lustig ist.“ – „Warum sollte man die Pointe nie zuerst erzählen?“

“Because then it’s no longer funny.” – “Why should you never tell the punch line first?”

Warum ist die Melone in den See gesprungen?
Sie wollte eine Wassermelone sein.

Why did the melon jump into the lake? She wanted to be a watermelon.

Greek

EL

Τί είναι πράσινο, μιλάει αγγλικά και έχει καβούκι? Η <<χελόου-να>>.

Τί íne prássino, milái angliká kai échi kavúki?
I Chelού-na.

What is green, speaks English and has a shell? A "Hello-na".

Explanation: in Greek, a "χελώνα" (/chelóna/) is a turtle, This word sounds similar to "hello".

Hungarian

HU

Anyá, mit tegyek a tésztára? – A fedőt, hogy apádnak is maradjon.

Mum, what shall I eat the pasta with? – The lid, so that your father can also have some this time!

Explanation: "tegyek" can be used in both ways: "put the lid on the pot", as well as "sauce to put on the pasta".

„Jean, mégsem veszem meg azt a Picasso festményt.” – „Miért nem, uram?” – „Nincs rá keret”.

“Jean, I am not buying that Picasso painting after all.” – “Why not, Sir?” – “Because there is no frame on it / budget for it.”

Explanation: this is a play on words that the word “keret” can mean both.

Icelandic IS

„Hefurðu heyrt um minkabúið sem minnkaði og minnkaði þangað til það var búið?“

Hehv-ur-du heyr-t um mihn-kah-bui-th sem mihn-kah-dhi ohg mihn-kah-dhi thah-ngahdh til thahdh vahr bhuh-th?

“Have you heard about the mink farm that got smaller and smaller until it was finished?”

Explanation: the pun is that “minnka” (meaning ‘mink’, the animal, just as in English) and “-búið” (“farm”, as in fur farming, for example) renders “minkabúið” (“the mink fir farm”). These words sound exactly like the verb “minnka”, which signifies “to get smaller”. This is followed by the word “búið”, which means “finished”. That is, “búið” means either “finished” or “the farm”, and “minka”/“minnka”, means either “mink” or “to get reduced”.

Swedish SV

”Min katolska farmor blev av med benet nu är hon protes-tant?”

“My Catholic grandmother lost her leg and now she is a protestant”

Explanation: The pun relies on the first part of the word ‘protestant’, ‘protes’ (meaning ‘artificial limb’, similar to the English word ‘prosthesis’) and the second part of the word ‘tant’ (meaning ‘aunt’).

”Vilken del av kroppen är sämst? – Nack-delen.”

“Which is the worst part of the body? – the neck part.”

Explanation: in Swedish, the combined words for ‘neck’ (‘nack’) and ‘part’ (‘del’) together form the word ‘nackdel’, meaning ‘disadvantage’.

”Vilken stad flyttar man sällan ifrån?
– Borlänge”

Which city do people rarely move out of? – Borlänge

Explanation: The Swedish city ‘Borlänge’ is based on the verb ‘to live’ (‘bor’) and the adjective ‘long’ (‘länge’).

”Vad gör tandläkaren på lunchen? – käkar!”

What does the dentist do during his lunch break? – eats.

Explanation: the pun words because the colloquial word for ‘to eat’ (‘käka’) sounds very similar to the word for ‘jaw’ (‘käke’).



Macedonian MK

“Мајсторе, побрзај, каснине.” – “Не можам да те каснам јас, нека те касне тој до тебе”.

“My friend, hurry up, we are running late (also meaning “bite me”).” – “I can’t, the one sitting next to you should bite you!”

Explanation: In its written form, “каснине” means “running late”. However, the situation is not that clear when it comes to its pronunciation. Namely, the phrase can also mean “bite me”. Therefore, be careful that your listeners don’t misinterpret what you are saying with this one!

Explanation: In Macedonian, “вина” can simultaneously mean “fault” and “wine”. If one says they accept “вина”, it is up to the listener to decide whether they accept an apology or if they give the speaker a good bottle of wine!

“Секогаш сум спремна да прифатам вина, особено ако се сортни.”

“I am always ready to accept faults (also meaning “wines”), especially if they are of a variety.”

Ристо Вртев ама не те добив

Risto, I tried to reach you on the phone, but I didn't manage.

Explanation: “Вртев” is a last name but it can also mean “dialing a phone number”. With the pronunciation of Risto’s full name, one might also understand the sentence as if he cannot be reached on his phone. So, the speaker punned on Risto with the help of a funny wordplay.

Explanation: The joke is based on the two meanings of “постојам” it can be translated as “to stand” but also as “to exist”. When saying you are too lazy to “постојам”, it is important to make clear which meaning of the word you are referring to otherwise you are likely to be offered a seat!

“Денес ме мрзи да постојам.” – “Па, седни си.”

“Today, I am too lazy to even exist (also meaning “stand”).” – “Well, take a seat.”

Montenegrin **ME**

Koje je razlika između slona i klavira? Na slona se možeš nasloniti, a na klavir se ne možeš ‘naklaviriti’!

What is the difference between an elephant and a piano? Well, you can lean on an elephant, but you can't “naklaviriti se” on a piano!

Explanation: “slon” means “elephant” and “nasloniti se” means to “lean on”, so you can “lean on an elephant”. However, in the case of a “klavir” or “piano”, there does not exist a verb like “naklavirati se”. Therein lies the difference!

Portuguese PT

Você sabe porque a água foi presa? Porque ela matou a sede.

Do you know why the water was arrested? Because it quenched thirst.

Explanation: in Portuguese, “matar a sede” means “to quench thirst”, although it literally translates as “to kill the thirst”.

O que o martelo foi fazer no culto? – Pregar!

What did the hammer do during the worship service? Preach!

Explanation: “pregar” can mean both “to preach” and “to nail”.

Por que o policial não usa sabão? – Porque ele prefere deter gente.

Why doesn't the policeman use soap? – Because he prefers to arrest people.

Explanation: in Portuguese, “detergente” is “detergent”, but “deter gente” means “to arrest people”.

Explanation: in Portuguese, “brilhante” does mean both “brilliant” and “shining”.

Por que o professor usava óculos escuros na sala de aula? – Porque os seus alunos eram brilhantes.

Why did the teacher used to wear sunglasses in class? – Because his pupils were brilliant.

Na aula de português a professora pergunta: “Joãozinho, arroz é com S ou com Z?” Joãozinho responde: “Aqui na escola eu não sei, mas lá em casa o arroz é com feijão”.

In Portuguese class, the teacher asks: “Joãozinho, is rice written with a C or a Z?” Joãozinho replies: “I don’t know about school, but at home, we eat rice with beans.”

Explanation: in Portuguese, “é com” simply means “is with”. So in this joke the teacher means “is (written) with”, but Joãozinho uses it as “is (eaten) with”.

O que aconteceu quando os lápis souberam que o aluno tinha esquecido o ponta-lápis? Eles ficaram desapontados.

What happened when the pencils found out that the pupil had forgotten the pencil sharpener? They were disappointed.

Explanation: in Portuguese, “desapontado” can mean both “disappointed” as well as “not sharpened” referring to a blunt pencil.



Se nada der certo, vou vender amendoim na porta da igreja. Daí, quando o padre disser “Amém” eu vou gritar “Doim!”.

If all goes wrong, I’ll sell peanuts at the church door. Then when the priest says “Amen” I will shout “doim!”

Explanation: in Portuguese, the word for “peanut” is “amendoim”, which could seem the combination of the words “amen” and “doim”. “Doim” itself doesn’t exist.

Romanian RO

De ce nu s-ar putea juca leopardul de-a v-ați ascunselea? Pentru că e dintotdeauna pestriț ...

Why can't the leopard play hide and seek? Because he always gets spotted.

Explanation: this is a play on the word “pestriț” which can mean both “spotted” and “dishonest (not playing fair)”.



Slovene SL

Zakaj je Julij Cezar nosil sandale? Ker je bil julij.

Why did Julius Caesar wear sandals? Because it was July.

Explanation: in Slovene, “Julij” and “juli” are written and pronounced the same but mean “Julius” and “July” respectively.

Vsi hodijo v čevljih, le Hugo bos.

Everyone is wearing shoes apart from Hugo Boss.

Explanation: “bos” means “barefoot” in Slovenian.

Spanish ES

Había un borracho sentado en la esquina de una calle y un policía le pregunta: “Oiga señor, ¿usted ha visto a un tipo doblar la esquina?” Y el borracho responde: “¡No... Yo cuando llegué, la esquina ya estaba doblada!”

A drunk man was sitting on the corner of a street. A policeman approaches him and asks: “Hey mister, have you seen a guy turn the corner?” And the drunk man replies: “No... When I arrived, the corner was already folded!”

Explanation: “Doblar” (la esquina) usually means “turn around the corner” but also means “fold” (a paper).

¿Qué le dice el 1 al 10? Para ser como yo, debes de ser sincero.

What does 1 to 10 tell you? To be like me, you have to be sincere.

Explanation: “sincere” in Spanish reads “sincero”, which sounds like “sin cero”, that is “without zero”.

Una hija le dice a su madre: “Mamá, mamá, ¡Qué buena está la comida!” – “Pues repite, hija.” “Mamá, mamá, ¡Qué buena está la comida!”

*A daughter to her mother: “Mom, mom, the food is so good!”
– “Then ‘repeat’, daughter.” – “Mom, Mom, the food is so good!”*

Explanation: in Spanish, “repetir” means “to repeat”, although, in this context, it can mean “to have another serving”.

¿Cómo se llama una pasta impostora? ¡Un empaste!

What do you call an impostor paste? A filling!

Explanation: the pun relies on the Spanish words “impostor” and “empaste”. The first means “impostor” and the second “filling”, as in “teeth filling”.

¿Cómo se llama un oso enfadado? ¡Furioso!

What do you call an angry bear? Furious!

Explanation: in Spanish, a “bear” is an “oso”, hence “furioso” as “furious bear”.

“Mi hijo se encuentra como pez en el agua en su nuevo trabajo” – “¿Y qué hace?” – “Nada.”

“My son is in his element in his new job.” – “What does he do?” – “Swims.”

Explanation: “elinfante” can be both a typo of “elefante” (or “elephant”) or “el infante” (“the infant”).

¿Cómo llama el vaquero a su hija?
¡Hijaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

*What does a cowboy call his daughter?
Daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaughter!*

Explanation: the words for “twenty” (“veinte”) and “come” as an imperative (“vente”) are almost homophones in Spanish.

“El zoológico no permite llamas.” – “¿Y por qué?” – “Porque temen un incendio.”

“The zoo doesn’t allow llamas.” – “And why?” – “Because they fear a fire.”

Explanation: in Spanish, “to be in one’s element” translates as “ser/encontrarse como pez en el agua” (“to be like fish in water”). Also, the word “nada” can both be the third person singular of “swimming”, but also “nothing”.

¿Cómo se llama a una cría de elefante? Simple: “elinfante”.

What do you call a baby elephant? Simple: “elinfant”.

Explanation: the word “daughter”, that is “hija”, resembles the interjection “yeha”.

¿Qué le dijo el número dieciocho al número dos? ¡Vente conmigo!

What did number eighteen say to number two? Come with me!

Explanation: in Spanish, “llamas” can be both “llamas” as the animal or “flames”.

“Doctor, soy asmático.” – “¿Es grave?” –
“No, amigo, es esdrújula.”

“Doctor, I’m asthmatic.” – “Is it bad?” – “No, my friend, it’s a proparoxytone.”

Explanation: in Spanish, words can be classified depending on how they are stressed. That is, words that are stressed on the third-to-last syllable or proparoxytones are called “esdrújulas” words that are stressed on the penultimate syllable are “graves”, and those stressed on the last syllable are “agudas”.



¿Cuál es el animal que es dos animales a la vez?
El gato, porque es gato y araña.

Which animal is two animals at once? The cat because it is a cat and a spider.

Explanation: in Spanish, an “araña” is a spider but also the third person singular form of the present tense of the verb “arañar”, that is to scratch.

¿Qué le preguntó un molusco a otro molusco?
– ¿Cómo luzco?

What did one mollusc ask another mollusc? – How do I look?

Explanation: the pun is based on the similarity between the word “molusco” (“mollusc”) and “¿(có)mo luzco?” (“¿how do I look?”).

“¿Cuánto cuesta alquilar un coche?” – “Depende del tiempo.” – “Vale, pongamos que llueve.”

“How much does it cost to rent a car?” – “It depends on the time”. – “OK, let’s say it’s raining.”

Explanation: in Spanish, the substantive “tiempo” can mean both “time” and “weather”, hence the pun.

Cómo se llama el pez más negativo? ¡Pesimista!

What is the name of the most negative fish? Pessimist!

Explanation: the pun relies on the combination of “pez” (“fish”) with “pesimista” (“pessimist”).

¿Cuál es la fruta que más se ríe? La naranja-ja-ja-ja-ja...

What is the fruit that makes you laugh the most? The orange, ha-ha-ha-ha.

Explanation: in Spanish, the word “orange” translates as “naranja”, itself pronounced as “nah-ráhn-hah”.

De un árbol lleno de manzanas se cae una. Las que quedan en el árbol empiezan a reírse y la manzana que está en el suelo les dice: No os riáis, ¡inmaduras!

An apple falls from a tree full of apples. The ones left on the tree start to laugh and the apple on the ground says to them: “Don’t laugh, you immature ones!”

Explanation: “immature” here as “not ripe”.

¿Cómo haces para que un pan hable? Lo pones en agua toda la noche y al día siguiente ya está blando.

How do you make bread talk? You put it in water overnight and the next day it’s already soft.

Explanation: “ya está blando” (“it’s already soft”) sounds like a contracted form of “ya está hablando” (“it’s already speaking”).

Se encuentran dos amigos y le dice uno al otro: “Estoy en un apuro, ¿puedes prestarme 6.000 euros?” – “Lo siento, pero no llevo nada de dinero encima.” – “¿Y en casa?” – “Todos bien, gracias.”

Two friends meet and one says to the other, “I’m in a hurry, can you lend me 6,000 euros?” – “I’m sorry, but I don’t have any money on me.” – “And at home?” – “All fine, thank you.”

Explanation: in Spain, people often ask each other: “Qué tal en casa?”, which means: “How is everything/everyone at home?”

¿Qué le dijo un techo a otro techo? – Techo de menos.

What did one roof say to another roof? – I miss you.

Explanation: “techo” translates as “roof”, and “te echo de menos” as “I miss you”. Here “te echo” is contracted as “techo”, the word for roof.

¿Qué es una orilla? 60 minutillos.

What is a shore? 60 little minutes.

Explanation: “horilla” as the diminutive of “hora” (“hour”) and “orilla” (“shore”) are homophones in Spanish.

¿Cómo se llama un hotel muy desagradable?
¡Una posadilla!

What is the name of a very unpleasant hotel? A(n) (small) inn!

Explanation: the pun relies on the words “posadilla”, the diminutive form of “posada” (meaning an “inn”), and “pesadilla” or “nightmare”.

Por favor, ¿la Calle Sagasta? Si la pisa mucho...

Please, (do you know where is) Sagasta Street? If you tread on it too much...

Explanation: “Sagasta” is the surname of a former Spanish politician that is pronounced similarly to “se gasta”, the third person singular of the verb “gastar”, which can mean “to wear out”.

“¿Qué haces hablando con el viento, José?”
– “Siento que es el único sincero conmigo.” –
“¿Y por qué dices eso?” – “Porque siempre es transparente.”

“What are you doing talking to the wind, Jose?” – “I feel like only the wind is sincere to me”. – “Why do you say that?” – “Because it is always transparent.”

“¿Sabes? Soy vidente. Por 10 euros te digo el futuro.” – “¿10 euros? De acuerdo.” – “Yo seré vidente, tú serás vidente, él será vidente...”

“You know, I’m a fortuneteller, and for 10 euros I can tell you the future.” – “10 euros? OK” – “I’ll be a fortuneteller, you’ll be a fortuneteller, he’ll be a fortuneteller...”

¿Qué piensa una cereza cuando se ve en un espejo? – ¿Zeré eza?

What does a cherry think when it sees itself in a mirror? – Am I that one?

Explanation: here the pun is in the Spanish word for “cherry” (“cereza”) and the fact that someone could say “zeré eza” instead of “seré esa”, which translates in English as: “Am I that one?”

Mi mujer me ha dicho que si mañana voy al torneo de ajedrez en lugar de salir con ella me dejará. “¿Y entonces vas a salir...?” – “Con e4 como siempre...”

“My partner told me that if I go to the chess tournament tomorrow instead of going out with her/him, she/he will ditch me”. – “So are you going out...? – With e4 as usual...”

Explanation: in Spanish, “salir con alguien” can be both “to go out with someone” or, when it comes to chess, “to start with a play”.



Jokes that work in all languages

These jokes make sense in all languages and can thereby resonate with basically anyone. Talk about the ability to build bridges! They are a vivid example of how humour and jokes are a universal language, and how we humans are, deep down, more alike than we might think. Let's allow humour do its part in bringing us closer together!

Bosnian

BS

Zašto ronionci skaču unatrag? Kad bi skočili unaprijed pali bi u brod.

Why do divers jump backwards? Because if they jumped forward, they would fall into the ship.

Kako se haker krsti? U ime Oca i Sina i Svetoga Duha – enter.

How does the hacker cross himself? In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit – enter.

Kako se zove motor koji se smije? “Yamahaha”.

What is the name of a laughing engine? “Yamahahaha”.

Učitelj pita: “Jesu li ‘hlače’/ ‘pantalone’ jednina ili množina?” Perica odgovori: “Gore su jednina, a dolje su množina.”

The teacher asks: “Are ‘trousers’ singular or plural?” Perica answers: “On the upper part they are singular, and on the bottom part plural.”

Doktor: “Koliko spavate svakog dana?” Perica: “Dva sata.” Doktor: “To je premalo.” Perica: “Znam, ali osim toga spavam osam sati noću.”

(Doctor: “How many hours do you sleep per day?” Perica: “Two.” Doctor: “That’s too little.” Perica: “I know, but besides that, I sleep 8 hours every night.”)

Kada ne možeš nekog pobjediti, ti mu se pridruži – I što ću sad, letjeti s komarcem po kući?

When you can't beat someone, join them – So what am I going to do now, fly along with the mosquitoes around the house?

Zašto slon ne koristi kompjuter? Zato što se plaši miša.

Why doesn't the elephant use a computer? Because he is afraid of the mouse.



Why doesn't the elephant use a computer?

Catalan **CA**

M'he comprat un diccionari i les pàgines estaven totes en blanc... No tinc paraules per expressar com em sento.

I bought a dictionary and all pages were blank. I have no words to describe how I feel.

De què es queixen sempre els astronautes? – De falta d'espai.

What are astronauts always complaining about? – The lack of space.

Quina és la feina més agraïda? Pilot d'avió, perquè se't passa el temps volant.

What is the most pleasant job? Airplane pilot, because time flies by.

Per què “abreviatura” és una paraula tan llarga?

Why is “abbreviation” such a long word?

Els cinc símptomes de la mandra: 1)...

The five symptoms of laziness: 1)...

“Què et passa?” – “M’he quedat sense feina i se m’acumulen els deutes.” – ”T’entenc perfectament...” – “Ah, sí? És que a tu t’ha passat el mateix?” – ”No, però també parlo català i t’entenc perfectament...” – “Per què no t’en vas a la...?” – ”T’entenc, t’entenc...”

“What’s wrong?” – “I’ve lost my job and my debts are piling up.” – “I understand you perfectly...” – “Oh, yes? Did the same thing happen to you?” – “No, but I also speak Catalan and I understand you perfectly...” – “Why don’t you go to...?” – “I understand, I understand...”

“Hola, vinc per l’entrevista laboral”. – ”Té experiència?” – ”Sí, com aquesta ja porto unes 30 entrevistes més”.

“Hi, I’m here for the job interview.” – “Do you have any experience?” – ”Yes, I’ve had about 30 interviews like this one.”

Vull que passem un cap de setmana genial – Ok, fins dilluns doncs!

I want us to spend a wonderful weekend – Well, then see you on Monday.

Croatian

Idu dva balona pustinjom i jedan vidi ispred sebe kaktus i kaže drugome: “Pazi kaktusssssssssss”.

Two balloons are walking in the desert and one of them sees a cactus in front of him and says to the other one: “Watch out, cactusssssss!”

Zašto je Djed Mraz dobar u karateu? Ima crni pojas.

Why is Santa Claus good at karate? Because he wears a black belt.

Što je jedan zid rekao drugom zidu? Naći ćemo se na uglu!

What did one wall say to the other wall? Meet me at the corner!

Czech

Ale číšníku, káva je studená! – To je dobře, že mi to říkáte, pane! Ledová káva stojí o euro víc.

*But waiter, the coffee is cold! – I'm glad you told me that, sir!
Ice coffee costs one euro more*

“Ahoj, jaké máš koníčky?” “Šmírování ostatních lidí.” “Hm, já ráda čtu a plavu.” “Já vím.”

*“Hi, what are your hobbies?” – “Snooping on other people.” –
“Um, I like to read and swim.” – “Yeah, I know.”*

Dutch

Waarom gooit Jantje een emmer water over zijn computer? Hij wil over het internet surfen.

Why does Jantje throw a bucket of water on his computer? He wants to surf the web.



English

A man tells his doctor, “Doc, help me. I’m addicted to Twitter!” The doctor replies “Sorry I don’t follow you.”

Have you heard about the new karma restaurant? There is no menu; you get what deserve.

“Sweetheart, would you say that I’m the only man you’ve ever loved?” – “Of course you are. Why do all men/women ask the same silly question?”

I used to think I was indecisive. But now I’m not so sure.

I’ve been thinking of taking up meditation lately. – Well, that’s better than sitting around and doing nothing...

I threw a boomerang a couple of years ago; I now live in constant fear.

The last thing I want to do is hurt someone, but it’s still on the list.

Last night my friends were complaining that I never listen to them... or something like that.

What’s the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don’t know and I don’t care.

I’ve been thinking of taking up meditation lately. – Well, that’s better than sitting around and doing nothing...

Will glass coffins be a success? That remains to be seen.

I failed maths so many times at school, I can’t even count how many.

What did the green grape say to the purple grape? “Stop holding your breath!”

Estonian

ET

Õpetaja: “Juku, milline on su lemmik muusikaline instrument?” – Juku: “Koolikell!”

*Teacher: “Juku, what is your favourite musical instrument?”
– Juku: “The school bell!”*

“Juku, kui sa oma suhtumist õpinguisse ei paranda, tekivad su isale pähe hallid juuksed!”
– “No küll nüüd isa rõõmustab! Ta on juba aastaid kiilakas olnud!”

“Juku, if you don’t improve your attitude towards school, your dad’s going to have grey hair!” – “Well then Daddy will be happy! He’s been bald for years!”

Juku helistab kooli: “Tere! Kahjuks Juku täna kooli tulla ei saa! Tal on kõrge palavik!”
Õpetaja: “Vabandage, kes räägib?” – Juku: “Minu ema!”

Juku calls the school: “Hello! Unfortunately Juku can’t come to school today! He has a high fever!” – Teacher: “Excuse me, who is speaking?” – Juku: “My mother!”

French

FR

« Écoute », dit la maman à sa petite fille, « si tu es sage, tu iras au ciel, et si tu n’es pas sage, tu iras en enfer. » – « Et qu’est-ce que je dois faire pour aller au cirque ? »

“Listen,” says a mother to her little girl, “if you behave yourself, you’ll go to heaven, but if you don’t behave, you’ll go to hell.” – “So, what should I do to go to the circus?”

Deux traducteurs à bord d’un navire conversent.
« Savez-vous nager ? » dit l’un d’entre eux.
« Non » répond l’autre « mais je peux crier ‘Au secours!’ en neuf langues. »

Two translators on board are having a chat. “Can you swim?” asks one of them. “No,” replies the other, “but I can shout ‘Help!’ in nine languages.”

German DE

Was ist weiß und stört beim Essen? –
Eine Lawine.

*What is white and is really annoying when you have dinner? –
An avalanche.*

Lehrer: „Peter, ich hoffe, ich werde dich
in Zukunft nicht mehr beim Abschreiben
erwischen!“ – Peter: „Das hoffe ich auch!“

*Teacher: “Peter, I hope I won’t catch you cheating again in the
future!” – Peter: “I hope so too!”*

Schüler: „Kann man für etwas bestraft werden,
was man nicht gemacht hat?“ Lehrer: „Nein,
das wäre ungerecht.“ Schüler: „Gut! Ich habe
nämlich meine Hausaufgaben nicht gemacht.“

*Student: “Can you be punished for something you didn’t do?”
Teacher: “No, that would be unfair.” Student: “Good! Because
I didn’t do my homework.”*



ΟΙ ΓΟΝΕΙΣ ΕΝΟΣ ΜΙΚΡΟΥ ΚΟΥΝΟΥΠΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΙΠΑΝ ΟΤΙ ΕΦΤΑΣΕ Η ΩΡΑ ΝΑ ΠΑΕΙ ΝΑ ΒΡΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΤΡΟΦΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΟΝΟ ΤΟΥ. ΜΕΤΑ ΤΟ ΤΕΛΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΩΤΗΣ ΜΕΡΑΣ ΤΟ ΡΩΤΗΣΑΝ ΠΩΣ ΠΗΓΕ Η ΠΡΩΤΗ ΜΕΡΑ. ΤΟ ΜΙΚΡΟ ΚΟΥΝΟΥΠΑΚΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕ ΟΤΙ ΗΤΑΝ ΠΟΛΥ ΧΑΡΟΥΜΕΝΟ ΕΠΕΙΔΗ ΟΛΟΙ ΜΟΛΙΣ ΤΟ ΕΒΛΕΠΑΝ ΚΤΥΠΟΥΣΑΝ ΤΙΣ ΠΑΛΑΜΕΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΤΟ ΧΕΙΡΟΚΡΟΤΗΣΟΥΝ.

There was a young mosquito and his parents told him he should go out and look for food on his own. The mosquito went out to hunt for food and when he got back, his parents asked him how his first day was. He said he was very happy because everyone was clapping their hands when he showed up.



Italian

IT

L'insegnante chiede allo studente di coniugare al presente il verbo 'camminare'. – Studente: "Io cammino tu cammini..." – Insegnante: "Più presto che non abbiamo tempo". Studente: "Io corro, tu corri..."

The teacher asks the student to conjugate the verb "to walk" in the present tense. The student starts: "I walk, you walk". The teacher interrupts him: "Please, hurry up! We don't have all the time in the world". The student then goes: "I run, you run..."

Macedonian

МК

Цветко одина лекар: "Докторе, се задушувам, не можам да дишам!" – "Пушете ли?" – "Пушам, ама не помага"

Tsvetko odi na lekar: "Doktore, se zadushuvam, ne možam da disham!" – "Pushete li?" – "Pusham, ama ne pomaga"

Tsvetko goes to the dentist: "Doctor I'm having some problems, I can't breathe!" – "Do you smoke?" – "Yes, but it doesn't help."

Polish PL

Co powiedziało Zero do Ósemki? – Fajny pasek!

What did a Zero say to an Eight? – Nice belt!



Portuguese PT

Vira-se a professora de Matemática para o Arturo: “Arturo, diga-me como é que posso dividir oito batatas por sete crianças?” “É fácil, professora, faça puré.”

The maths teacher turns to Arturo and asks him: “Arturo, tell me how can I divide eight potatoes into seven children?”. “It’s easy, teacher”, he replies: “Make puree.”

“Você sabia que existe dicionário para masoquistas?” — “Para masoquistas? Como assim?” — “É igual aos outros, só que as palavras não estão em ordem!”

“Did you know there is a dictionary for masochists?” – “For masochists? What do you mean?” – “It’s just like the others, except the words aren’t in order!”

Como deixar alguém curioso? Eu conto amanhã.

How to make someone curious? I’ll tell you tomorrow.

Na manhã do seu aniversário, um dos parceiros disse ao outro: “Sonhei que me tinhas dado um colar de diamantes. O que é que achas que isso significa?” – “Talvez descubras esta noite”, responde o parceiro. Nessa noite, regressa a casa com um pequeno pacote e entrega-o ao seu parceiro. O parceiro abre o papel de embalagem, ansioso, e encontra um livro: ‘O Significado dos Sonhos’.

On the morning of her/his birthday, one partner said to his/her partner: “I dreamt that you gave me a diamond necklace. What do you think that means?” – “Perhaps you’ll find out tonight,” the partner replies. That night, she/he comes back home with a small package and hands it to his/her partner. She/he tears open the wrapping paper, anxious, and finds a book: ‘The Meaning of Dreams’.

Qual é a cidade brasileira que não tem táxi? Uberlândia.

Which Brazilian city does not have a taxi service? Uberlândia.

Romanian

Am spus o glumă despre chimie, dar nu am primit nici o reacție.

I made a chemistry joke but gave no reaction.

Un cangur poate sari mai sus decat Empire State Building? Da, pentru ca Empire State Building nu poate sari!

Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes, because the Empire State Building can't jump!

Imi este frică pentru calendar. Zilele îi sunt numărate.

I'm afraid for the calendar; its days are numbered.

“M-am născut în România.” “În ce parte?” “Tot din mine”.

“I was born in Romania.” “Which part?” “All of me.”

Ai auzit vreodată restaurantul de pe Marte? Super meniu, dar zero atmosfera.

Have you ever heard about the restaurant on Mars? Great menu but no atmosphere.

Mama mi-a zis: urmează ți visele. Așa că m-am întors în pat.

My mother told me to follow my dreams. So I went back to bed.

Ce ii trebuie unui astronaut claustrofob? Un pic de spațiu.

What does a claustrophobic astronaut need? A bit of space.

Șeful meu mi-a zis să am o zi bună, așa că m-am întors acasă.

My boss told me to have a good day, so I went back home.

Serbian

SR

“Imate li mentol bombone?”, upita momak u prodavnici. “Ne, nemamo!, odgovara prodavač. Sledeći dan, isto pitanje i isti odgovor. “Nemamo mentol bombone, ako opet dođeš za mentol bombone, odseći ću ti ruku!” Pa sledeći dan, momak pita: “Imate li sjekiru?” – “Ne!” – “A mentol bombone?”

“Do you have menthol candies?” Asks a kid at the store. “No, we don’t”, replies the seller. The next day, he enters the store and asks the same, to which the seller answers: “We don’t have any, and if you come for menthol candies again, I will cut your hand!” The next day, the kid asks: “Do you have an axe?” – “No!” – “And menthol candies?”

Slovak

SK

Príde 60-ročný pán k psychiatrovi a vraví: „Pán doktor, môj o dva roky mladší brat sa vo vani hrá s takou žltou kačičkou.“ – „No, to nie je v jeho veku celkom normálne, ale nikomu to neubližuje, tak mu tú rados pokojne doprajte.“ – „Ale, pán doktor, to je moja kačička!“

A 60-year-old gentleman comes to a psychiatrist and says: "Doctor, my two years younger brother is playing with this yellow duck in the bathtub." – "Well, that's not quite normal at his age, but it's not hurting anybody, so give him the pleasure." – "But, Doctor, that's my duck!"



(European Citizen)

Spanish

ES

Un empleado entra temerosamente en el despacho de su jefe y le dice: “Discúlpeme, jefe, pero es que hace tres meses que no cobro”. Su jefe responde: “Nada, nada, hombre. No se preocupe, está disculpado”.

An employee fearfully enters his boss's office and says, "Excuse me, boss, but I haven't been paid for three months". The boss replies: "No worries. You're excused."

¿Tu padre te ayudó con tu tarea? – No me ayudó, lo hizo todo sólo.

Did your father help you with your homework – No, he did it all by himself.

No quiero presumir, pero terminé el rompecabezas en menos de una semana y decía 2-4 años en la caja.

I don't want to brag, but I finished the puzzle in under a week and it said 2-4 years on the box.

¿Cómo se llama el hermano vegano de Bruce Lee? Broco Lee...

What is Bruce Lee's vegan brother's name? Broco Lee.

Intenté organizar un torneo profesional de escondite, pero fue un completo fracaso. Los buenos jugadores son difíciles de encontrar.

I tried organising a hide-and-seek contest, but it was a failure; good players are hard to find.



Swedish SV

”Pappa, kan du hjälpa mig med matten?” – ”Vad ska jag hjälpa dig med?” – ”Jag ska hitta den gemensamma nämnaren...” – ”Vad fan, har ni inte hittat den än? Den letade vi också efter då jag gick i skolan?!”

“Dad, can you help me with maths?” – “What should I help you with?” – “I need to find the common denominator...” – “What the hell, haven’t you found it yet? We were also looking for it when I was at school?!”

”Varför lade Polisen ner utredningen av den försvunna dörrmattan? – de hade inget att gå på.”

“Why did the police stop investigating the missing doormat? – They had nothing to go on.”

”Var i Sverige bor flest singelmän? – Skellefteå”

“Where in Sweden do you find most single men? – Skellefteå (‘she-left-you’).”

Jokes and puns in English involving other languages/countries

EN

Why did the Frenchman only eat one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is “un oeuf”.

Explanation: in French, “un oeuf” sounds like “enough” yet means “one egg”.

Explanation: “the water” translates as “l'eau” in French, which sounds like “low”.

Why are there no floods in France? Because the water is “l'eau”.

Why did the French cook despair? Because he lost his ‘huile d'olive’.

Explanation: “huile d'olive” means, in French, “olive oil” but sounds similar to “will to live”.

Explanation: “Kinder” in German signifies “children”.

No matter how kind students are in your country, German kids will always be “kinder”.

An Englishman asks a German “Do you know what 5 plus 4 equals?” The German replies: “Nein”. The Englishman goes: “Oh, sure, thank you!”

Explanation: “Nein” means “no” in German, but is pronounced similarly to “nine” in English.

What do you call a flirty Greek philosopher?
“Socratease”.

What kind of cars do people in Norway drive?
Fjords.

Why do they call it the Arno river? Because
there “arno” fish in there!

While in Prague I drove by the maximum
security prison. It made me feel uneasy... I
never like passing bad Czechs.

What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't
know, but its flag is a big plus.

What do you call a European City filled with
rodents? “Hamsterdam”.

Have you heard about the Czech inventor of the
trampoline? He was the first Czech to bounce.

Why do French people eat snails? Because they
don't like fast food.

English: “Where do cats go when they die? To
purrrrgatory.”

French: « Où vont les chats quand ils meurent?
Au purrrchatoire »

Italian: “Dove vanno i gatti quando muoiono?
Nel purgat(t)orio..”

Portuguese: “Para onde os gatos vão quando
morrem? Para o purgatorio.”

Spanish: “¿De dónde van los gatos cuando
mueren? Purgatorio.”

Explanation: whilst In English the joke is a word play on the
purring sound made by cats, in the other languages, it can play
off that as well as the respective language's word for a cat! Not
only a truly multilingual joke but also one which can work on
two levels – that's enough to make a cat laugh!

At a British restaurant, an Alsatian customer asks: “When shall I become a steak?” To what the waiter answers: “I hope never, Sir!”

Explanation: The confusion lies in the fact that the Alsatian word for “snail” is “Schnack”.

What’s the origin of the city name Dublin? The legend goes as follows: a Lebanese husband stopped by a flower shop to get a bunch of flowers for his wife. When he was offered an assortment, he exclaimed: “Hayda wared dablin!” And hence the city name.

Explanation: in German, “sausage” translates as “Wurst”, which sounds somewhat similar to “worst”.

What do you call a hobbit from the Basque Country? Bilbo

Explanation: in Alsatian, “bekumme” means to “receive”. To “become” is instead “waare”.

An American tourist walks into a restaurant and, in English, asks the waiter for a snack. The waiter, to the puzzlement of the tourist, brings a plate of snails. And that’s how a simple snack turned into a snail surprise!

Explanation: in Lebanese Arabic, “the flowers are all wilted!” translates as “hayda wared dablin!” There are a number of places around Europe that Arabs have used as puns and claimed to have had a hand in naming them. We are yet not quite sure about the truth of this story...

German sausage puns are the Wurst!

Explanation: Bilbo is both the Basque name for the capital city of the Basque Country and the name of a Lord of the Rings character.

Linguistic chat-up lines

These chat-up lines revolve around witty wordplay, hence being related to the world of languages. While their efficacy in the realm of flirting is likely to be rather limited, we have chosen to add them to our collection. But before proceeding... watch out! Some of them are extra cheesy!

Chat-up lines in English EN including other languages or countries

You must be Albanian
because I want “Tirana-way”
with you.

Are you from Armenia?
Because Yerevan in a
million.

Are you from Budapest?
Because I’m Hungary for
your love.

Are you German? Because
you’re a “Nein” and I’m the
one “Ja” need.

You must be from Estonia...
Because you’re cool and
“Tallinnted”.

If you were a verb tense,
you’d be plus-que-parfait.

Explanation: in French, plus-que-parfait
is a verbal tense but also translates as
“more-than-perfect”.

Without you, I'm "Oslo-nely" as one can be. There's "Norway" I'd ever get sick of you!

You may not be from Luxembourg... but how about (Lux)embourg(k) on a new adventure together?

Are you from Helsinki?
Because I think I've Finnish-ed searching for my soulmate.

You must be Irish because you've got my heart rate Dublin.

You might not be Serbian, but if I ask you out, might the "an-Serbia" yes?

I'm not a photographer, but I can picture us together.

Are you from Stockholm?
Because you really "sweden up" my life. Really, "IKEA"n't live without you.

If I was an octopus, all my three hearts would beat for you.

Are you an electrician?
Because you're definitely lighting up my day!

You look so familiar...
Didn't we take a class together? I could've sworn we had chemistry.

If you were a vegetable, you'd be a "cute-cumber".

If I were a cat, I'd spend all nine of my lives with you.

Chat-up lines in English **EN** only

French FR

Ton père est un voleur, il a volé toutes les étoiles du ciel pour les mettre dans tes yeux.

Your dad is a thief – he stole all the stars and put them in your eyes.

Je fais un reportage sur les belles choses de la vie, ça te plairait d'être interviewé(e)?

I'm doing a report on the beautiful things in life, would you mind being interviewed?

Il y a tellement de soleil dans tes yeux que je bronze quand tu me regardes.

There is so much sun in your eyes that I get a tan when you look at me.

Tu t'appelles Google? Parce que je trouve en toi tout ce que je recherche.

Is your name Google? Because I find everything that I'm looking for in you.

German DE

Welche Sehenswürdigkeiten gibt es hier noch, außer dir?

What other sights are here/in the city, except for you?

Glaubst du an Liebe auf den ersten Blick?
Oder soll ich nochmal reinkommen?

Do you believe in love at first sight? Or shall I come in one more time?

Hey, du kommst mir so bekannt vor.... Ich glaube, du siehst aus wie meine zukünftige Freundin.

Hey, you look so familiar... I think you look just like my future girlfriend.

Als Gott dich schuf, wollte er sicher nur angeben.

When God created you, I'm sure he just wanted to show off.

Italian

O tu sei la/il più bella/bello del mondo oppure
io non viaggio abbastanza.

*Either you're the most beautiful woman/man in the world
or I don't travel enough.*

Hai una bussola? Mi sono perso nei tuoi occhi.

Do you have a compass? I got lost in your eyes.

Polish

Masz patent ratownika? Bo utonąłem w
Twoim spojrzeniu.

*Are you a qualified lifeguard? Because I drowned in your
gaze.*

Bolało gdy spadałaś z nieba, moja gwiazdko?

Did it hurt when you fell from the sky, my star?

Chyba zadzwonię na policję, bo ukradłaś
moje serce.

I think I'll call the police because you stole my heart.

Spanish

¿Qué te parece si nos damos un tiempo? Por ejemplo, tú me das tu presente y yo te doy mi futuro.

What do you say we give ourselves some time? For example, you give me your present and I give you my future.

¿Te gustan las estrellas? Porque a mí me gusta Star contigo.

Do you like Star Wars? Because I like “Star” with you.

Explanation: “star” is a contraction of the word “estar”, meaning “to be”.



edl.ecml.at/jokebook



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