

# Funny Stories

Reading and retelling is a very useful activity for students. Even better when the stories are funny jokes!

Use these stories below to just read and share or as a retelling activity. Get the PPT and audio version of them [HERE](#).

## Retelling activity

### Warm Up

1. Send one student out of the room.
2. Tell the rest of the class a funny story. Use body language, the board, the students' L1 to help students understand the story.
3. Bring back the student who was out of the room.
4. Ask the class to retell the student the story.
5. Students can help each other as a group to communicate the narrative.

### Jigsaw Retelling Activity

1. Provide each student one funny story. If you have too many students pair up the students. One story / two or three students.
2. Ask students to quietly read their story and make sure they understand it. Monitor and answer any questions students may have about vocabulary.
3. Put students in small groups. Each student reads their story to the others. If they can, they should not read as much and try to remember and retell.
4. Students switch groups and rotate. They retell their story again. Students will remember more and be able to retell more of the story, better.
5. Keep rotating students in groups and having them retell their story again and again. They'll keep getting better.
6. As a class. Ask students which story they liked best. Chose one that some of the students didn't get a chance to hear. Retell it as a class.
7. **Extension.** Ask students to prepare a funny story for the next class!



## **IT'S THE BUTCHER!**

An old woman was lonely. She decided to get a pet. She didn't have much money so she went to a second hand pet shop.

She saw many animals: a three legged cat, a dog without a tail, fish that could only swim backwards and a beautiful bird that could only say one thing, "Who is it?". She decided to buy the bird. She bought a cage for her bird and went home. She put the bird by the door and went downtown to do some shopping.

While she was gone, a man knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" replied the parrot.

"It's the butcher," he said.

"Who is it?", repeated the bird.

"It's the butcher," said the man.

"Who is it?" asked the parrot.

"It's the butcher!!," said the man angrily.

"Who is it?" "It's the butcher!!!!", he screamed.

"Who is it?" "It's the butcher, the butcher, the butch..."

Suddenly the butcher fell to the floor. He had had a heart attack.

Later that day, the old woman came home and found the man laying on her doorstep. She opened her door and asked the parrot, "Who is it?" . The parrot replied,

**"It's the butcher!"**



# The Dog

Linda Robinson was very thirsty so she went into a cafe. There was an old woman in the cafe. She was sitting near the door at a table. At her feet, under the table, there was a small dog.

Linda bought a glass of lemonade and some cookies. She sat down at the table next to the old woman. The old woman sat quietly. She looked lonely. Linda decided to be kind and talk to the old woman.

“It is very hot today.” she said.

“Yes, but it is nice inside here.” replied the old woman.

Linda looked at the dog and asked, “Does your dog like people?”

The woman answered, “Oh! Yes! She loves people.”

Linda wanted to give the dog a cookie. So she asked, “ Does your dog like cookies?”

“They are his favourite food.” said the old lady.

Linda was terribly afraid of dogs so she asked, “Does your dog bite?”

The old woman smiled and said, “ NO! My dog is very tame. She is even afraid of cats!”

Linda took a cookie in her hand and reached under the table. She put it near the dog’s mouth. But the dog didn’t bite the cookie, she bit her hand! Linda jumped up, spilling her lemonade. She screamed, “I thought you said, your dog didn’t bite.”

The old woman looked at Linda and then at the dog. Then she said,

“THAT’S NOT MY DOG!”



# THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

A woman needed to buy her mother a birthday present. She didn't know what to buy her mother. She only had one day to buy her mother something.

So she went out window shopping. Soon enough, she walked by a pet store window. She thought to herself, "What a lovely idea for a present! My mother is so lonely and she needs a pet."

The woman went into the store and saw many wonderful animals. Puppy dogs, fluffy cats, gold fish, cute mice. But the woman didn't think these were special enough. She asked the manager if he had a pet that was really special.

The manager thought for a moment and replied, "Yes, but it costs a lot of money. \$5,000"

"I have a parrot that can speak 7 languages, Chinese, English, French, Korean, German, Russian and even Hindi!"

The woman said, "Perfect" and bought the bird. She sent it by special delivery to her mother, so she would get it the next day.

The next evening after work, the woman called her mother. She asked, "How do you like your birthday present?"

Her mother replied, "Thank you, IT'S DELICIOUS!"



# The Salesman

Henry Leech was a salesman. He was a good salesman and sold lots of vacuum cleaners. One week, the manager sent Henry into the countryside to sell.

He drove out of town and stopped at a farmhouse. He knocked on the door and the farmer's wife opened it. Henry started into his speech immediately.

“Mam, how much time do you spend sweeping the floors?”

“A lot of time. This is a farm and things get dirty quickly.” said the woman.

“And how much time do you spend beating the carpets?” asked Henry.

“A lot of time. This house gets dusty and my dog also lays on them”

“Well” said Henry, “This is your lucky day.”

Henry showed her his vacuum cleaner and said,

“You can clean the house in 5 minutes with this!”

The farmer's wife didn't look interested.

Henry took out a big bag of dirt. He opened it and threw it all over the floor. The farmer's wife was very surprised. Before she could speak Henry said, “Mam, if this machine doesn't pick up every last piece of dirt, I will eat all of it!!!!”

The farmer's wife looked at Henry and said,

“WELL, I WILL GET YOU A SPOON. WE HAVE NO ELECTRICITY.”



# The Genie

**A Frenchman, an Englishman and a German were travelling in a boat from France to Australia. Unfortunately, the boat sank but the three men swam to a small island.**

**There was nobody on the island and the men waited for two months. No boat came to rescue them. They were very unhappy.**

**“We will have to live here forever.” said the Englishman**

**“ We will have to eat bananas every day.” said the German**

**“We will never see our families again.” said the Frenchman.**

**One day, while walking along the beach, they found a bottle. They opened the bottle and out came a genie. The genie said, “Thank you for letting me out of the bottle. I was inside for 500 years! Now I am free. I will give you each one wish.”**

**The German said, “I want to be back in German at a soccer game. With a beer and sausage and singing songs in the stadium.”**

**“POOF”, “Your wish is granted” said the genie. The German was back in Germany.**

**The Frenchman said, “I want to be at the dinner table with my family in France, eating cheese, drinking wine.”**

**“POOF”, “Your wish is granted” said the genie. The Frenchman was back in France.**

**The Englishman just looked at the genie. The genie said, “Hurry up! I want to enjoy my freedom.”**

**The Englishman thought for a moment and said, “I am rather lonely here. Can you bring back my two friends?”**

**“Poof”, the German and the Frenchman were back on the island.**



## The Architect

One Sunday, an architect visited Seoul, Korea. He was there for a conference but had all Sunday to explore the city. He decided to take a taxi around the city and see lots of sites.

He paid the taxi driver \$100 and said, “Take me around Seoul and show me all the sites”

The taxi driver was very happy for the business and started driving. Immediately, they saw a big, beautiful palace.

The architect said in a loud voice (for he was from Texas). “What is the building?”

The taxi driver said, “That is Gyeongbokgung. It took almost 20 years to build!

“Ah, that’s nothing” replied the American. “We could build that in a year in America.

The driver continued driving. Suddenly the Texan saw a large domed building. He asked, “What building is that?” The taxi driver said, “That is the National Assembly, it is the largest in Asia.”

The architect replied, “Ah, that’s nothing. Back home, we could build that in a few weeks!”

The taxi driver continued driving. They passed a very high, gold building which shimmered in the sun. The architect jumped up in his seat and screamed, “Oh my god! What building is that?”

The taxi driver looked back at him and shook his head.

He said, “I DON’T KNOW. IT WASN’T THERE THIS MORNING!”



## The Suicides

**An American, A Frenchman and a Korean were working on a skyscraper being built in Seoul. They worked hard all morning. When it was lunch, they took the elevator up to the top of the very high building and sat on the edge eating their lunches.**

**The American opened his lunch box and said, “Damn! Peanut butter and jam sandwiches again! If I get peanut butter and jam again, I’m gonna jump off this building.”**

**The Frenchman opened up his lunch. “Mon Dieu! Cheese sandwiches again! If I get cheese sandwiches again, I’m gonna jump off this building.”**

**The Korean opened up his lunch box. “Shxxxxx! Kimchee. If I get kimchee again for lunch, I’m going to jump off this building.”**

**The next day, the 3 men did the same thing. They worked hard all morning and then went up to the top of the building, sat on the edge and began to eat lunch.**

**The Korean looked in his lunch box first. “Shexxxx! Kimchee!” He stood up and jumped off the building.**

**The American looked in his lunch box. “Damn! Peanut butter and jam!” He stood up and jumped off the building.**

**The Frenchman looked in his lunch box. “Merde! Cheese sandwiches!” He stood up and jumped off the building.**

**The next day, the newspapers were full of stories about the 3 construction workers who killed themselves. Everyone wondered why? Even the police had no answers.**

**A few days later at the funeral for the men, the 3 wives were talking. The Korean’s wife said, “I don’t understand. He loved kimchee and always asked me for it.” The American’s wife said, “I don’t understand either.**

**He loved peanut butter since he was a young boy.” The Frenchman’s wife said, “I don’t understand either. HE MADE HIS OWN LUNCH EVERYDAY!**

## The Lawyer and the Lexus

A very successful lawyer parked his brand-new Lexus in front of his office, ready to show it off to his colleagues.

As he got out, a truck passed too close and tore off the door on the driver's side.

The lawyer immediately grabbed his cell phone, dialed 911, and within minutes a policeman pulled up.

Before the officer had a chance to ask any questions, the lawyer started screaming hysterically. His Lexus, which he had just picked up the day before, was now completely ruined no matter what the body shop did to it.

When the lawyer finally wound down from his ranting and raving, the officer shook his head in disgust and disbelief.

"I can not believe how materialistic you lawyers are," the cop said. "You are so focused on your possessions that you don't notice anything else."

"How can you say such a thing?" asked the lawyer.

The cop replied, "Don't you know that your left arm is missing from the elbow down? It must have been torn off when the truck hit you."

"My God!" screamed the lawyer. "My Rolex!"



## Fish Tale

**It was a cold winter day when an old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for a fish to bite.**

**He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not to far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line.**

**It only took about a minute and WHAM!, a Largemouth Bass hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish.**

**The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just luck. But the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one.**

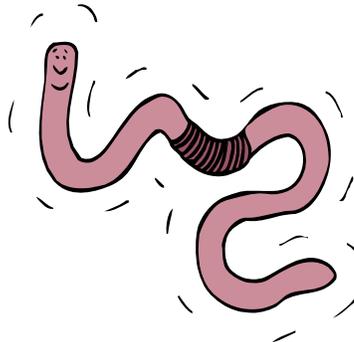
**This went on and on until finally the old man couldn't take it any more since he hadn't caught a thing all this time. He went to the boy and said, "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?" To which the boy responded, "roo raf roo reep ra rums rrarm."**

**"What was that?" The old man asked.**

**Again the boy responded, "roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm."**

**"Look" said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."**

**So the boy spit into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm!"**



## THE SHOPKEEPER

Once there was a Korean shopkeeper named Mr. Park. He lived in New York and had had a small corner store for 45 years. He worked very hard, 16 hours every day and he never took a holiday.

One day, his daughter arrived at the store and found Mr. Park lying on the floor. He had had a heart attack! She called 911 and he was rushed to the hospital.

He survived and was very weak, resting in the hospital. A day later he awoke and slowly looked around his hospital room.

He asked in a weak voice, “Are you there, my dear wife?”

“Yes,” she replied “I am here my dearest.”

Mr. Park asked, “Are you here, my oldest son?”

“Yes, I am here.” replied his oldest son.

“Are you here, my daughter?” Mr. Park asked in a faint voice.

“Yes, father, I am here.” the daughter replied with a tear in her eye.

“Are you here, my youngest son?” asked Mr. Park.

“Yes, papa. I am here by your side.” said the baby of the family.

Suddenly Mr. Park’s eyes grew big and threw off the bed covers and jumped up, screaming,

**“SO THEN, WHO IS WATCHING THE STORE!”**



## STEVIE WONDER

One day, Stevie Wonder (the blind singer), came to Toronto to perform. He was taken to his hotel room. He decided to take a nap but didn't like the sheets, he wanted silk sheets. Rather than bother the hotel staff, he decided to go buy some himself.

He asked his personal manager if there was a store nearby where he could buy silk sheets. The manager replied, "Yes, there is a big department store. It is called, Canadian Tire. I can go buy you some."

Stevie Wonder didn't want to bother his manager. He said, "Just take me there, I can get them. I want the right kind."

So the manager took Stevie Wonder to the car and they drove to Canadian Tire. Upon arriving, Stevie Wonder got out of the car and his manager tried to help him. Stevie Wonder said, "Let me go alone, I can do it by myself."

Stevie Wonder went into the department store and went to the back. All the staff was looking at him, whispering and pointing. "Oh my god! It is Stevie Wonder!"

Stevie Wonder was feeling around and things were crashing to the floor, everything was falling everywhere as he searched. The store manager went to his employees and said, "Someone quick, go help Mr. Wonder!"

A young teenager said, "I will". He went to the back of the store where Stevie Wonder was busy crashing things to the floor and searching blindly. The young clerk tapped Stevie Wonder on the shoulder and asked, "May I help you Mr. Wonder?" Stevie Wonder turned around, shook his head and said,

**“NO, I’M JUST LOOKING”**



## The Spy

Nigel Cavendish was a famous British spy. For over 20 years he went on important missions and stole important secrets from countries all over the world.

However, his luck ran out. One day, he was captured by the Russian government. The British government said they didn't know anything about him. He was taken to court and sentenced to death by firing squad.

On the day of his execution the weather was terrible. It was raining cats and dogs and there was a cold north wind blowing fiercely.

The guards came to his prison cell and led him outside. They walked in the pouring, cold rain for almost half a kilometre. It was muddy, they were soaked and freezing to death.

They put Nigel up against the wall and lined up to shoot him. They asked him if he had any last words to say.

Nigel said, "What horrible men you are – to bring me out to be shot on such a horrible day."  
One soldier looked up at the dark sky and said,

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT! WE HAVE TO WALK BACK!"

## The Lion

One day a lion was walking through the jungle. He was young and very proud. He met a snake and said, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

The snake said, "You are." It did not make the lion angry and he smiled.

Thirty metres later, he met a monkey and asked, "Monkey, Who is the king of the jungle?"

The monkey said quickly, "You are." The lion smiled and continued on his way.

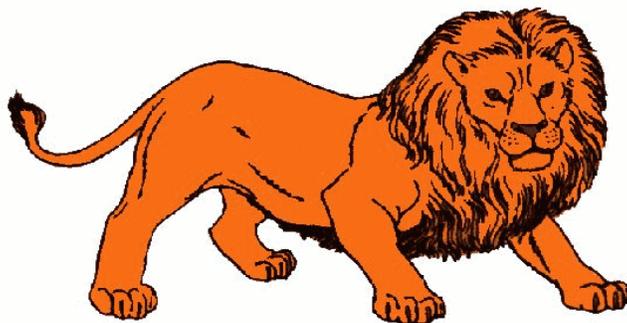
Next, the lion met a crocodile. He stopped and asked the crocodile, "Who is the king of the jungle?" The crocodile didn't answer so the lion roared very loudly. "WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE?" The crocodile answered quickly, "You are." The lion was satisfied and said, "Next time, answer quickly or I will eat you!"

Finally, the lion met an elephant. He stopped, looked angrily at the elephant and asked, "Elephant, who is king of the jungle?"

The elephant picked up the lion with his trunk and dropped him to the ground. The elephant kicked the lion and then jumped on top of him.

The lion was very surprised and hurt. He got up, shook the dirt off and shouted,

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET ANGRY JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER!"



## PICASSO (A True Story)



One day, a famous art collector was having a party. He had many famous paintings on his walls. He saw one man studying his favourite painting which was above his fireplace. He said to the man, “This is a real Picasso.”

The man shook his head. He said, “I am an art expert. This definitely isn’t a real Picasso. It is a fake.” The art collector was shocked.

He called up his agent and asked to have a personal appointment with Picasso. The meeting was arranged and he flew to Paris. He went directly to Picasso’s studio and after climbing the stairs, knocked on the door. Picasso shouted, “Come in!”. Picasso was busy painting a large painting. He quickly looked over his shoulder and asked, “What is it? I’m busy.”

The art collector said, “Mr. Picasso I only have one quick question. Can you please look at this painting and tell me if it is a fake?”

Picasso looked over his shoulder at it and quickly snapped, “It is a fake”. The collector thanked Picasso and left.

One year later, the collector returned to Picasso’s studio. He walked up the stairs and knocked on the door. Picasso was busy painting and he angrily asked, “What is it?!”

The art collector said, “Picasso, sorry to interrupt but I have just one question. Can you look at this painting and tell me if it is a fake?” Picasso looked over his shoulder and quickly replied, “It is a fake!”

The man was shocked, he said, “It can’t be! I was here last year and saw you, yourself, painting this very painting!” Picasso turned around and said,

**“Sometimes I paint fakes.**