

April Fools' Day



April Fools' Day is celebrated on the 1st (first) of April every year. It is a **minor**, or small, holiday. Many people all over the world celebrate April Fools' Day.

On April Fools' Day in the United States, people celebrate by playing small **pranks** on their friends, coworkers, or peers. Most of the pranks are harmless. Some people might put something **disgusting** on their friend's desk, give their friend food that tastes terrible, or give glue coins on the floor. Sometimes, people will tell small lies, called "white lies." Other people will try to create hoaxes, which are long stories or lies that they tell to many people. Sometimes, people will tell funny jokes, and a lot of people tell bad jokes. Usually, the people who play the pranks will yell "April Fools" after the prank because they want people to know it was a joke.

The **origins** of April Fools' Day are not known. Many people believe the holiday is from Ancient Roman festivals that celebrated Roman gods. April Fools' Day is even **mentioned** in one of the first modern English books, *The Canterbury Tales*, which was written in 1392 (thirteen ninety-two).

Most people **ignore** or forget about April Fools' Day, however, people who tell jokes, play pranks, and create hoaxes need to be careful. Jokes, pranks, and hoaxes can offend, or hurt the feelings of, many people. When the jokes and pranks are done in good spirit, April Fools' Day can be a fun day.

Vocabulary

- Minor** (adjective) – small
- Prank** (noun) – a joke or trick
- Disgusting** (adjective) – gross
- Origin** (noun) – beginning
- Mention** (verb) – to tell about
- Ignore** (verb) – to not pay attention to



The BBC Hoax

The British Broadcasting Company, or BBC, played a very famous hoax on April Fools' Day in 1957 (nineteen fifty-seven). On their news shown, the BBC reported that farmers in Switzerland had a great spaghetti crop. The BBC showed video of a Swiss family pulling Spaghetti from a tree and putting it in baskets.



Discussion

- Are there any "prank days" in your country?
- Did anybody play a prank on you? Did you play a prank on anybody? Describe it.
- Think of a fun prank that you can play on your family, your coworker, or your teacher.

Vocabulary Quiz

- A. Minor B. Prank C. Disgusting D. Origin
E. Mention F. Ignore

1. What a surprise! Our teacher didn't ____ our pop quiz!
2. I made a ____ mistake on my quiz, but it is OK.
3. When I ____ the teacher, I don't hear about the homework.
4. Who started school? What is the ____ of school?
5. Health class was ____ today. Yuck!
6. We played a ____ on our teacher by pretending not to do the homework