

April Fool's Day

Task 1 – April Fool's day

- What do you know about April Fool's Day?
- Do you have a similar day in your country?
- Do you like practical jokes?
- Have you played a trick on anybody recently?
- Who-s the joker in your class/ family?

Task 2 – Just fooling around

Read the text about April Fool's Day in the UK. When you reach a question, discuss it with your partner.

Just Fooling Around: Alien invasion

Picture this - a UFO circling the skies over London watched by thousands of astonished citizens. The police arrive at the scene expecting an alien invasion and witness a silver suited person emerging from the craft!

- ***How would you feel if you saw the UFO over London?***

Did you know that British scientists can control the weather? The invention of a weather machine will enable the UK to have long hot summer days and ensure that rain only falls at night. Better still, snow at Christmas time will always be guaranteed!

- ***Would you like the weather to be controlled?***

Fancy something different for dinner? Have you ever tasted the genetically modified whistling carrot? Specially engineered to grow with air-holes in their side, the carrots begin to whistle when they are fully cooked.

- ***Would you believe this story if you heard it on the news?***

April Fool's

Unfortunately none of these stories are true, they are part of the tradition of April Fool's Day. It is the custom in the UK to carry out a joke or trick upon someone during the morning of 1 April. If the person falls for the joke then they are named an April Fool.

It's an annual pastime of newspapers and television to take part in playing these jokes and even millionaire entrepreneurs do it too. The UFO was in fact a hot-air balloon in disguise flown by Richard Branson!

April Fool's Day will continue so be on the lookout this year for any hoaxes, there are bound to be some. Maybe you could try some of your own??

Task 3 – Message board: April Fool's Day: Do you love it or hate it?

A website asked some British people the question: 'Do you love or hate April Fool's Day?' Here are their answers:

Malisa: I love April Fool's Day. It can be really good fun. I love playing tricks on people and I don't mind if people play tricks on me. It's one day of the year you can be really silly and have a laugh and it's OK. You have to be quite sensible for the other 364 days of the year, so I look forward to April 1st.

Johnny: I don't like April Fool's Day. It makes me a bit nervous. I keep thinking someone is about to play a trick on me. When twelve o'clock passes I feel quite relieved that it's finished for another year.

Phil: When I was at school, April Fool's Day was always good fun. We played tricks on each other and sometimes on the teacher. In fact, one year one of the boys at school put a bucket of water on top of the door and when the chemistry teacher came in he got very wet! It was funny, but the boy got in big trouble!

Louise: April Fool's Day is a great idea. It's easy to forget the actual date and I always believe everything I read in the newspapers or watch on the TV news. I usually believe the big national hoaxes and it always makes me laugh afterwards. It's good to remind us that maybe we shouldn't always believe everything we hear in the news.

Clare: April Fool's Day is fun when you're young. I remember putting a plastic fried egg on my Dad's plate for breakfast as a trick. He decided to cut it up and pretend to eat it! Now I think some of the tricks are a bit silly and people can be a bit cruel playing tricks on their 'friends'!

Mark: I hate April Fool's Day. Last year people at work changed the sugar for salt so we all put salt in our coffee! Then some joker in the office decided he wanted a day off and he did something to the computers so they wouldn't work. It just wasn't funny! I had lots to do and we all had to stop working and solve the problem.

- What would you say if you were asked the same question?
- Who do you think loves April Fool's Day most?
- Who do you think hates April Fool's Day most?
- Do you think any of the tricks mentioned are funny?

Task 4 – Top ten tricks

Read about an April Fool's trick and then explain it to your class.

Task 5 – Make up your own April Fool's trick

In pairs, invent your own April Fool's trick. What would you do? Who would you do it to? Why do you think it would fool people? Write about your trick here: