

Articles

April Fools

Exercise 10

Choose the correct answer of the available possible options.

1. April Fool's Day is celebrated on 1 April in many countries around the world. On this day, people traditionally play practical jokes on each other and have fun trying to make other people believe things that are not true. In the UK, jokes and tricks can be played up until noon on 1 April. After midday it's considered bad luck to play ____ trick.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information, HK- (member of a category)

2. Anyone who forgets this and tries a joke in ____ afternoon becomes an 'April Fool' themselves.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: 1 April implies a morning, afternoon etc = HK+

3. So, what kind of jokes do people play? Well, ____ simple example would be telling your friend that their shoelaces are undone. Then, when they bend down to do them up, you shout, 'April Fool!', and they realise their shoelaces are fine.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information/referent, HK-

4. Maybe it's not your kind of humour, but watch out, there's always someone who will find it hilarious! In Ireland, a popular prank is to send someone on a 'fool's errand'. ____ victim is sent to deliver a letter, supposedly asking for help.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: Trick/someone imply "victim" = HK+

5. When the person receives ____ letter, they open it, read it and tell the poor messenger that they will have to take the letter to another person.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: Previously mentioned = HK+

6. This continues and the victim ends up taking ____ message to several different people until someone feels sorry for them and shows them what the letter says: 'Send the fool to someone else.'

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: message = letter = HK+

7. In France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and French-speaking areas of Canada and Switzerland, the 1 April tradition is known as the 'April Fish'. A common joke is to try to stick ____ paper fish onto a victim's back without being noticed.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information, HK-

8. Some newspapers, TV channels and well-known companies publish false news stories to fool people on 1 April. One of the earliest examples of this was in 1957 when ____ programme on the BBC, the UK's national TV channel, broadcast a report on how spaghetti grew on trees.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information/referent, HK-

9. The film showed ____ family in Switzerland collecting spaghetti from trees and many people were fooled into believing it, as in the 1950s British people didn't eat much pasta and many didn't know how it was made!

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information/referent, HK-

10. Most British people wouldn't fall for ____ spaghetti trick today, but in 2008 the BBC managed to fool their audience again with their Miracles of Evolution trailer, which appeared to show some special penguins that had regained the ability to fly.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: trick = story about spaghetti trees = HK+

11. Two major UK newspapers, The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mirror, published ____ 'important story' on their front pages.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: previously mentioned = HK+

12. On April Fool's Day 1998, the American hamburger chain Burger King announced that it had created ____ left-handed hamburger.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information/referent, HK-

13. The advert for ____ 'new product' explained that all the ingredients had been rotated 180 degrees so that it was more comfortable for left-handed people to pick up and eat.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: new product = left-handed hamburger = HK+

14. The following day, Burger King admitted that this advertisement had been ____ hoax, but said that thousands of customers had gone to restaurants across the USA asking for a left-handed burger.

A. a/an

B. the

Explanation: New information, HK- (member of a category)