

Introduction

You can listen to a recording of this story at:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/stories/three-jokes>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- 3 pre-reading vocabulary activities, one for each joke
- three activities, in which you try and put the lines of each joke in the correct order
- the answers to the activities, which are the jokes that you can listen to

Before you listen to the jokes

Activity 1

Match the words at the top to their definitions.

a. approach	b. chicken
c. curious	d. desk
e. frog	f. library / librarian
g. throw (past tense) threw	

1. a place where you can borrow books / a person who works in this place
2. a place, often with a counter (= a long flat narrow surface), where you can get information or service
3. a small animal which has smooth skin, lives in water and on land, has long powerful back legs with which it jumps from place to place
4. a type of bird kept on a farm for its eggs or its meat
5. interested in learning about people or things around you
6. to come near or nearer to something or someone
7. to send something through the air with force, especially by a sudden movement of the arm

Activity 2

Match the words and phrases at the top to their definitions.

a. accuse	b. arrest	c. break (broke/broken) out
d. confusion	e. earthquake	f. escape
g. firing squad	h. foreign	i. gun-shot
j. panic	k. revolution	l. sentenced
m. shouting	n. spies	

1. a change in the way a country is governed, usually to a different political system and often using violence or war
2. a group of soldiers who are ordered to shoot and kill a prisoner
3. a sudden violent movement of the Earth's surface, sometimes causing great damage
4. belonging or connected to a country which is not your own
5. people who secretly collect and report information about the activities of another country or organization
6. speaking with a very loud voice
7. start suddenly (something dangerous or unpleasant)
8. take somebody away to ask them about a crime
9. the action of firing a gun or the noise this makes

10. to be told what your punishment for something is
11. to get free from something
12. to say that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal or unkind
13. to suddenly feel so worried or frightened that you cannot think or behave calmly or reasonably
14. when people do not understand what is happening or what they should do

Activity 3

Match the words and phrases at the top to their definitions.

a. choose (chose)	b. mirror	c. parrot
d. pet shop	e. return	f. shame

1. a piece of glass with a shiny metallic back which reflects light, producing an image of whatever is in front of it
2. a shop that sells animal which are kept in the home as companions and treated kindly
3. a tropical bird with a curved beak, which is often kept as a pet and can be trained to copy the human voice
4. an unlucky situation
5. to come or go back to a previous place
6. to decide what you want from two or more things or possibilities

Activity 4

Below is a joke, but the lines are mixed up. Can you put the lines in the correct order?

The chicken and the frog

1. Half an hour later the chicken returned.
2. It gave the books to a big fat frog.
3. It went into the park and down to the lake.
4. It went up to the desk and said "Book! Book!"
5. Once more it approached the desk and said "Book! Book!"
6. One morning a chicken walked into a library.
7. She followed it through the streets to the park.
8. The frog opened a book and looked at it.
9. The librarian gave the chicken two books, and it left.
10. Then it said "Read it!" and threw the book into the water.
11. This time the curious librarian followed the chicken.

Activity 5

Below is another joke, but the lines are mixed up. Can you put the lines in the correct order?

The firing squad

1. "Ah ... Fire!" he yelled!
2. "Earthquake!" he yelled, and the gunmen panicked.
3. "Ready! Aim! ..."
4. "Ready! Aim! ..."
5. In the confusion he made his escape.
6. Next morning they were told that a revolution had broken out.
7. One night they heard gun-shots and lots of shouting.
8. The first man faced the guns ...
9. The second man faced the guns ...

10. They were arrested and accused of being spies.
11. They were sentenced to death by firing squad.
12. Two men were travelling together in a foreign country.

Activity 6

Below is another joke, but the lines are mixed up. Can you put the lines in the correct order?

The parrot

1. “Ah, that's a shame. Buy this mirror. He'll look at himself, and talk.”
2. “Foooooooooood!”
3. “I'd like a parrot that talks”, he said.
4. “I'm sorry sir, but you have to teach your parrot to speak.”
5. “I'm sorry, sir – but tell me, before he died, did he say anything?”
6. “My parrot is dead”, he said.
7. “My parrot still doesn't speak”, he said.
8. “Really? Which word was that?”
9. “Yes he did. But only one word.”
10. A man went into a pet shop one day.
11. So he chose a parrot and took it home with him.
12. The man bought the mirror and went away.
13. Two weeks later he returned a final time.
14. Two weeks later he returned to the pet shop.

Listen to the jokes

Check your answers while you listen.

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Answers

Activity 1 (The chicken and the frog)

1. f; 2. d; 3. e; 4. b; 5. c; 6. a; 7. g

Activity 2 (The firing squad)

1. k; 2. g; 3. e; 4. h; 5. n; 6. m; 7. c; 8. b; 9. i; 10. l; 11. f; 12. a; 13. j; 14. d

Activity 3 (The parrot)

1. b; 2. d; 3. c; 4. f; 5. e; 6. a

Activity 4 (The chicken and the frog)

6; 4; 9; 1; 5; 11; 7; 3; 2; 8; 10

Activity 5 (The firing squad)

12; 7; 6; 10; 11; 8; 4; 2; 5; 9; 3; 1

Activity 6 (The parrot)

10; 3; 4; 11; 14; 7; 1; 12; 13; 6; 5; 9; 8; 2