April Fools Day!



Traditions

In the UK, jokes and tricks can be played up until noon on 1 April. After midday it's considered bad luck to play a trick. Anyone who forgets this and tries a joke in the afternoon becomes an 'April Fool' themselves.

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 a paper fish onto a victim's back without being noticed.

So, what kind of jokes do people play? Well, a 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. Or sending someone on a 'fool's errand'. The victim is sent to deliver a letter, supposedly asking for help. When the person receives the letter, they open it, read it and tell the poor messenger that they will have to take the letter to another person. This continues and the victim ends up taking the message to several different people until someone feels sorry for them and shows them what the letter says: 'Send the fool to someone else.'

In the UK, you can play an April Fool's Day trick all day on 1 April.

True False

In France, the 1st April is called 'April Fish'.

True False

In Ireland, the 'fool's errand' joke usually involves two people.

True False

celebration	message	tradition
laugh	enjoyable	

1. April Fool's Day is a _____ where people play tricks on each other.
2. The victim of the 'fool's errand' joke is the _____ .
3. In French-speaking areas of Canada, the _____ known as the 'April Fish' is celebrated on 1st of April .
6. Fun and _____ on April Fool's Day can reduce stress levels.
7. Many people find April Fool's Day very _____ .

April Fool's Day in the media

Watch and match the April fools pranks in the correct order.

Left handed burgers	1
Washing white lions	2
Spaghetti trees	3
The Museum of Hoaxes	4
Flying penguins	5
Digital Big Ben	
Float on Earth	
Animals in clothes	
Water on Mars	



Click the links above to see some of the most famous pranks. Do you think you would have fallen for any of these pranks?

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