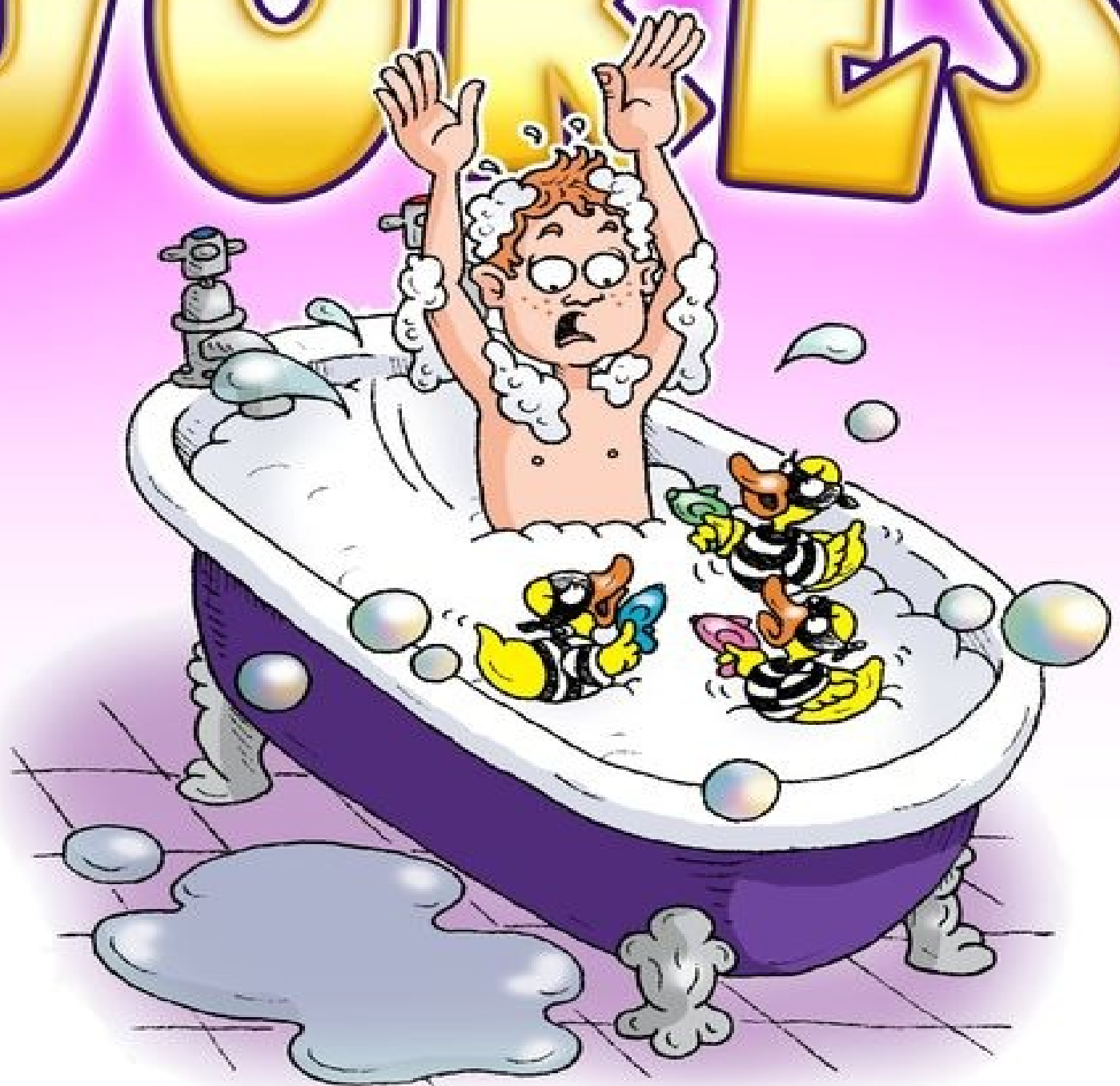


**THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF
REALLY SILLY
JOKES**



EDITED BY GEOFF TIBBALLS

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GEOFF TIBBALLS



CONTENTS

Title Page
Introduction
Aardvarks
Aliens
Ants
Art
Babies
Bananas
Bats
Bears
Bees
Birds
Books
Cannibals
Cats
Chickens
Children
Communication
Cows
Creepy Crawlies
Demons and Goblins
Dinosaurs
Doctor, Doctor...
Dogs
Ducks
Eggs
Elephants
Eskimos
Fairy Tales
Families
Farms
Fish and Sea Life
Food and Drink
Frogs, Toads and Newts
Geography
Ghosts
Gorillas and Chimpanzees
History
Holidays
Horses

Hyenas
Idiots
Jobs
Kangaroos
Knock Knock...
Light Bulbs
Military
Monsters
Monster Book Titles
Music
Night
Pandas
Parrots
Pigeons
Pigs
Pirates
Police and Criminals
Rabbits
Reindeer
Reptiles
Rhymes
Riddles
Robots
Rodents
Romance
School
Science
Shaggy Dog Stories
Sheep
Skeletons
Skunks
Snakes
Space
Spies
Sports
Teeth
Transport
Vampires
Waiter, Waiter...
Werewolves
What Do You Call ...
What Do You Get If You Cross ...
What's the Difference ...
Witches and Wizards
Zombies

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By the Same Author
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INTRODUCTION

The pulling of Christmas crackers is as much a part of the Yuletide celebrations as Santa Claus, snowmen and newspaper articles about what to do with leftover turkey. Inside the cracker, along with the obligatory ill-fitting paper hat and a novelty gift of dubious use, is the eagerly anticipated joke, printed in festive red on a slip of paper. Usually it is a riddle or an excruciating pun, aimed at kids and guaranteed to draw groans from everyone present. Yet no matter how cringeworthy these jokes may be, they are invariably greeted with warm affection, like old friends.

In many cases they are exactly that. Knock knock jokes, doctor, doctor jokes, elephant jokes and chicken jokes all have their origins in the school playground, the home of silly jokes and arch punsters. Puns are often dismissed as one of the lowest forms of wit – especially if it is sarcasm's day off – but some of the cleverest jokes around have puns at their heart. For example, "Hedgehogs, why can't they just share the hedge?", which was voted the funniest joke at a recent Edinburgh Fringe Festival, is essentially nothing more than a pun, albeit a superior one.

So there's nothing wrong with silly jokes. They rarely offend anyone – except perhaps elephants and chickens – and they provide a welcome dose of silliness in a world in which an alarming number of people take themselves way too seriously.

Thanks to Duncan Proudfoot and Nicky Jeanes at Constable and Robinson and to Gemma Hastilow for the great cartoons.

And a special thanks to my daughter Nicki for her encyclopedic knowledge of chicken jokes.

Geoff Tibballs

AARDVARKS

What is uglier than an aardvark?

Two aardvarks.

What do you call an aardvark outside Buckingham Palace?

A guardvark.

What do you call a pickled aardvark?

A jarredvark.

What do you call an aardvark that's been thrown out of a pub?

A barredvark.

What do you call an aardvark that plays poker?

A cardvark.

What do you call a three-footed aardvark?

A yardvark.

Who is an aardvark's favourite singer?

Barbra Streisant.

What are an aardvark's favourite songs by The Beatles?

I Want To Hold Your Ant and Aard Day's Night.

How do ants hide from aardvarks?

They disguise themselves as uncles.

What do aardvarks eat for breakfast?

Aard-boiled eggs.

Why do aardvarks make undesirable neighbours?

They always have their noses in other people's business.

When is an aardvark jumpy?

When he's got ants in his pants.

Where does the aardvark family always come first?

In the phone book.

Which aardvark holds the world land speed record?

The short-sighted aardvark who wrapped his tongue around a motorcycle.

What do aardvarks like on their pizzas?

Ant-chovies.

Who has a long nose, wears a mask and sits tall in the saddle?

The Lone Aardvark.

Where did the young aardvark learn to tie knots?

In the Boy Snouts.

Did you hear about the household appliance that eats ants and records TV shows?

It's called the VCRdvard.

What has six legs, two arms, four eyes and a tail?

A man holding an aardvark.

Why weren't people scared of the baby aardvark?

Because a little aardvark never hurt anyone.

A man wanted to buy a new aardvark so he looked through the classified ads. He found a phone number offering aardvarks for sale and his call was answered by an old lady.

"How much are your aardvarks?" he asked.

"Thirty dollars each," she replied.

"Did you raise them yourself?" he added.

"Sure did," said the old lady. "Yesterday they were only twenty dollars each."

Why did the aardvark beat the lion in the TV debate about ants?

He stuck to the subject.

What do you call a boxing match between two aardvarks?

A snout bout.

Who loves hamburgers, French fries and ants?

Ronald McAardvark.

What do you call an aardvark that's just lost a fight?

A vard, because he's not aard any more.

An aardvark went on the TV quiz show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* The host, who was very polite, said, "How confident are you of doing well, sir?"

"Quite confident," replied the aardvark. "I'd like to get up to \$500,000."

"That's quite a target, sir," smiled the host. "Let's see how we go."

"Oh, before we start," said the aardvark, "I hope you don't mind but I've brought along a supply of ants to eat before I answer each question. I find that eating ants helps stimulate my brain."

brain.”

“No problem, sir,” said the host.

So the aardvark put his snout in his bag of ants for twenty seconds and correctly answered the first question. Then he ate ants for thirty seconds and correctly answered the second question. By the time he’d won \$100,000 he was spending up to five minutes eating ants and the host was beginning to grow impatient.

“I must hurry you along, sir,” he said. “We’re running out of studio time.”

“I need my supply of ants,” insisted the aardvark. “Otherwise I’ll get the question wrong.”

Eventually the aardvark reached the \$500,000 question.

“Sir,” asked the host, “what is the capital of Albania? Is it a) Tirana b) Elbasan c) Ljubljana or d) Durres?”

The aardvark considered the options. “I think it’s Tirana,” he said, “but I need some more ants before I can be certain.”

So he put his snout into the ant bag. On and on he went, guzzling ants for over eight minutes. The host was turning red with rage. “Listen, sir,” he said eventually. “I can only give you another twenty seconds. If you’re not ready then, we’ll have to disqualify you.”

At last the aardvark lifted his snout from the bag and the host asked wearily, “Is that your final ant, sir?”

ALIENS

What is an alien's favourite snack?

A Mars bar.

What did the alien say to the gas pump at the service station?

Don't you know it's rude to stick your finger in your ear when I'm talking to you!

Why did the alien think grass was dangerous?

He had heard it was full of blades.



*What do you call a fat alien?
An extra cholesterol.*

Why does E.T. have such big eyes?

Because he saw his phone bill.

What do you call an alien spaceship that drips water?

A crying saucer.

What did the alien say to the garden?

Take me to your weeder.

Why do Martians suspect that walls keep secrets?

Because they're always meeting in the corner.

What do you get if you cross a baby with an alien spaceship?

An unidentified crying object.

What is an alien's favourite food?

Martianmallows

How did the aliens hurt the farmer?

They trod on his corn.

What do aliens put on the windows of their spacecraft?

Venutian blinds.

Why was the thirsty alien hanging around the computer?

He was looking for the space bar.

Two Martians from space landed on Earth and spotted their first snake.

The first Martian said, "Don't worry. That's only a little green snake."

"Yes," said the second Martian, "but it might be as dangerous as a ripe one."

Why did the Martian become a bus driver?

So he could tell the Earthlings where to get off.

What's E.T. short for?

Because he's only got little legs.

How do you see flying saucers?

Trip up a waiter.

What did the alien say to the bird?

Take me to your feeder.

ANTS

Where do ants go for their holidays?

Frants.

What do you call a greedy ant?

An anteater.

What do you call an ant who skips school?

A truant.

What do you give a poorly ant?

Antibiotics.

What do you call a 200-year-old ant?

An antique.

Who was the most famous ant scientist?

Albert Antstein.

Why did the ant elope?

Nobody gnu.

Where do ants eat meals?

At a restaurant.

What do you call an ant with frogs' legs?

An antphibian.

How many ants are needed to fill an apartment?

Ten ants.

What kind of ants correct spellings?

Pedants.

What do you call a chic ant?

Elegant.

What do you call an ant that likes to be alone?

Independant.

What is smaller than an ant's mouth?

An ant's dinner.

What kinds of ants are good at maths?

Accountants.

If ants are so busy, how come they always have time to show up at picnics?

ART

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson were doing their usual investigative business one day when they uncovered an amazing painting.

At first glance, it looked like a picture of normal oak tree, in the middle of a wilderness, but if you looked closer, you could see that it was a surreal painting. The tree's trunk was actually made of fire, and its branches were made of ice, clouds and earth.

"What is it?" asked Watson in awe.

Holmes answered, "It's an element tree, my dear Watson."

Why did the picture go to jail?

Because it had been framed.

Why do statues and paintings of George Washington always show him standing?

Because he would never lie.

What is green and smells like red paint?

Green paint.

Why did the artist stick a stamp on his forehead?

He was a post impressionist.

For his art assignment a student had to draw a picture of William Shakespeare but couldn't decide what pencil to use. He said to himself, "2B or not 2B, that is the question."

What do you get if you cross a famous painter with a famous boxer?

Muhammad Dali.

What do you get if you cross a famous artist with a kebab?

Donner-tello.

What do you call an American drawing?

Yankee doodle.

A man nearly got away with stealing several paintings from a billionaire who had an impressive art collection. However, after planning the crime, and getting in and out past security, he was captured only two blocks away when his Ford Transit ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, "I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

Why did the nurse go to art school?

To learn how to draw blood.

What did the artist say to the dentist?

Matisse hurt.

Vincent Van Gogh was sitting at a bar when the bartender asked him, "Would you like drink?"

"No thanks," said Van Gogh. "I've got one 'ere."

A small boy was entertaining himself at home by drawing. His father peered over his shoulder and asked, "What are you drawing, son?"

"I'm drawing God," replied the boy.

"That's quite difficult," said the father, "because nobody knows what God looks like."

The boy said, "They will when I'm finished."

BABIES

What do you get if you cross a mountain with a baby?

A cry for Alp.

What do you get if you cross a baby with soldiers?

Infantry.

Why do we dress baby boys in blue and baby girls in pink?

Because they can't dress themselves.

What are baby witches called?

Halloweenies

Mother: Why is there a strange baby in the crib?

Daughter: You told me to change the baby.

What did the baby corn say to its mother?

Where's pop corn?

How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?

You rock-et.

What lies in a pram and wobbles?

A jelly baby.

A worried father says, "I see the baby's nose is running again."

His wife says angrily, "Can't you think of anything other than horse racing?"

Why isn't life fair for babies?

Because they always get a bum wrap.

BANANAS

Why did the banana go to the doctor?

Because it wasn't peeling well.

If a crocodile makes shoes, what does a banana make?

Slippers.

Why don't bananas ever get lonely?

Because they go around in bunches.

A man went into a bar with a banana in his ear.

The bartender looked at him suspiciously and said, "Excuse me, do you know you've got banana in your ear?"

The man said, "I can't hear you. I've got a banana in my ear."

What's yellow and goes bzzzzz?

An electric banana.

What's yellow and goes slam, slam, slam, slam?

A four-door banana.

What's yellow, then green, then yellow, then green?

A banana with a night job as a cucumber.

First man: My wife went on a special banana diet.

Second man: Did she lose weight?

First man: No, but she can sure climb trees!

Why didn't the banana snore?

It was afraid it would wake up the rest of the bunch.

What should you do if you see a blue banana?

Try to cheer it up.

What is yellow and always points to the north?

A magnetic banana.

Why did the man lose his job in a fruit packing firm?

He kept throwing the bent bananas away.

How did the mother banana spoil the baby banana?

She left him out in the sun too long.

Why did the banana put on sun cream?

To keep from peeling.

A man walked into a bar with a banana on his head. As he served him, the bartender said, "don't know if you're aware of this, but you've got a banana on your head."

"That's okay," said the man. "I always wear a banana on my head on Wednesdays."

"But today's Thursday," said the bartender.

"It's not, is it?" said the man. "Oh, no! I must look a complete fool!"

BATS

Two vampire bats wake up in the middle of the night, thirsty for blood. One says, "Let's fly out of the cave and get some blood."

"We're new here," says the second one. "It's dark out, and we don't know where to look. We'd better wait until the other bats can come with us."

The first bat replies, "Who needs them? I can find blood somewhere." He flies out of the cave and when he returns, he is covered with blood.

The second bat says excitedly, "Where did you get the blood?"

The first bat takes his friend to the mouth of the cave. Pointing into the night, he asks, "See that black building over there?"

"Yes."

"Well," says the first bat,

"I didn't."

Why don't bats live alone?

They prefer to hang out with their friends.

How does a girl bat flirt?

She bats her eyes.

What did the mouse say when it saw a bat?

Mom, an angel!

How do bats fly without bumping into things?

They use their wing mirrors.

BEARS

How do you start a teddy bear race?

Ready, teddy, go!

What do you get if you cross a teddy bear with a pig?

A teddy boar.

What should you call a bald teddy?

Fred bear.

How do you hire a teddy bear?

Put it on stilts.

What's small and cuddly and bright purple?

A koala holding its breath.

What do you call a big white bear with a hole in his middle?

A polo bear.

What's a bear's favourite pasta?

Tagliateddy.

A bear walks into a bar. He goes up to the bartender and says, "Please could I have a..."
The bartender thinks for a moment and continues, "beer."

The bartender replies, "Why the big pause?"

What is a bear's favourite drink?

Coca-koala.

What do you call bears with no ears?

B.

Two men are out hiking. All of a sudden, a bear starts chasing them. They climb a tree, but the bear starts climbing up the tree after them. The first hiker gets his trainers out of his knapsack and starts putting them on. The second hiker asks, "What are you doing?"

The first responds, "I figure when the bear gets close to us, we'll have to jump down and make a run for it."

The second says, "Are you crazy? Don't you know you can't outrun a bear?"

The first guy says, "I don't have to outrun the bear ... I only have to outrun you!"

Why didn't the grizzly wear any shoes?

He wanted to go bear foot.

One day a baby polar bear approaches his mother with a confused expression on his face and says, "Mom? Am I a polar bear?"

His mother replies, "Well, of course you are son!"

The cub says, "You're sure I'm not a brown bear or a black bear?"

"No, of course not. Now run outside and play."

But the baby polar bear is still confused so he approaches his father.

The cub asks, "Dad, am I a polar bear?"

"Why of course son!" he replies.

The cub continues, "Are you sure I don't have any grizzly bear in my bloodlines?"

"No son. I'm a polar bear, your mother is a polar bear, and you too are one hundred per cent purebred polar bear! Why in the world do you ask?"

"Because I'm freezing!"

Why do koalas carry their babies on their back?

Because they can't push a pram up a tree.

A man and a tall brown bear wearing a hat go into a bar. The man says, "I'll have a beer, and the bear will have a large Matabooboo."

The bartender asks, "What's a Matabooboo?"

The bear replies, "Nuttin' Yogi."

What is white, furry and shaped like a tooth?

A molar bear.

What's brown and hairy and can see just as well from either end?

A bear with its eyes shut!

What steps do you take when a bear is chasing you?

Very big ones!

What colour socks do bears wear?

They don't wear socks, they have bear feet.

Why didn't the teddy bear eat his dinner?

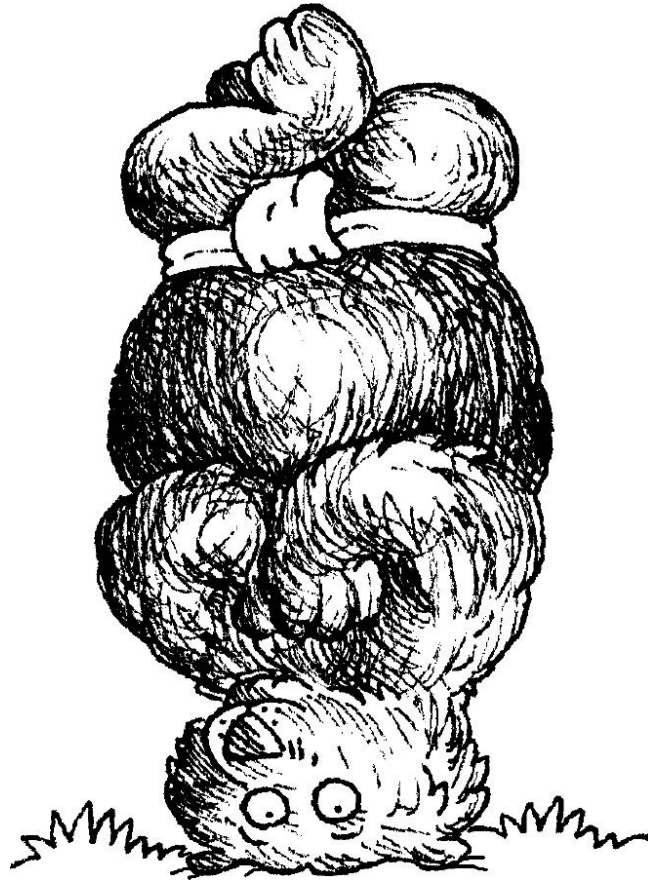
Because he was stuffed.

A man was hiking in the woods one day when a bear chased him up a really tall tree. The bear started to climb the tree, so the man climbed even higher. After a while the bear climbed down and went away. The man breathed a sigh of relief and started to climb down the tree.

Suddenly the bear returned and this time he had brought an even bigger bear with him. The two bears climbed the tree, the bigger bear going higher than the smaller bear, but luckily the man was able to climb higher still so that the bears couldn't reach him. Eventually the bears climbed down and went away. The man breathed a huge sigh of relief and started to

climb down the tree.

Suddenly the two bears returned – and this time the man knew he was in big trouble. Each bear was carrying a beaver...



*What bear hibernates
standing on its head?
Yoga Bear.*

BEES

Who is a bee's favourite singer?

Sting.

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use honeycombs.

What do bees do with their honey?

They cell it.

Who is a bee's favourite pop group?

The Bee Gees.

Why do bees hum?

Because they've forgotten the words.

What do you call a clumsy bee?

A fumble bee.

What's the best part of a bee?

Its knees.

What do bees do if they want to use public transport?

Wait at a buzz stop.

What do bees chew?

Bumble gum.

What did the bee footballer say after netting a goal?

Hive scored.

How do we know that bees are happy?

Because they hum while they work.

What bee is good for your health?

Vitamin bee.

What does a bee say before it stings someone?

This is going to hurt me a lot more that it will hurt you.

What does a bee order at McDonald's?

A hamburger.

What is more dangerous than being with a fool?

Fooling with a bee.

Where do bees go on holiday?

Stingapore.

What does a bee sit on?

Its bee-hind.

Why did the bee start reciting poetry?

He was waxing lyrical.

What are the cleverest bees?

Spelling bees.

What kind of bee talks very quietly?

A mumble bee.

What did the bee say to the bluebottle?

I must fly now but I'll give you a buzz later.

If we get honey from bees, what do we get from wasps?

Waspberry jam.

What did the queen bee say to the naughty bee?

Bee-hive yourself!

Why did the bees go on strike?

Because they wanted more honey and shorter working flowers.

Where did Noah's bees live?

In the Ark-hives.

What did the bee say to the flower?

Hi, honey.

How can you tell if a bee is on the phone?

You get a buzzy signal.

Where do wasps go when they're ill?

To waspital.

The world expert on European wasps and the sounds that they make is taking a stroll through

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