

Newsletter March 2010



www.clever-pants.com

e-mail: james@clever-pants.com

March (noun): The third month of the Gregorian calendar, following February and preceding April.

March (verb): To progress steadily onward; advance.



Well well well, time marches on doesn't it? And it has marched on into... well, March. They say that three is the magic number – March is the third month and the beginning (for most of us) of spring, we perceive our universe as having three special dimensions, there are three talented and wonderful clever pants actors – so there's plenty of evidence that 3 is indeed rather special.

To celebrate this magical month, we come bearing our monthly newsletter, packed to the gills with wonders and delights. As well as our regular jokes and quotes, there's March events around the world, a choc-chip-tastic recipe for chocolate chip cookies, a quiz to test your knowledge of the English language is up to the minute and the final interview with this year's actors, the delectable Nancy. Don't forget to check out our new look website for Clever Pants news, goodies and more! Enjoy!

March quotes

Spring is nature's way of saying,
"Let's party!"

- Robin Williams

"March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice."

- Hal Borland

"A light exists in Spring
Not present in the year
at any other period
When March is scarcely here."

- Emily Dickinson



"It was one of those March days when
the sun shines hot and the wind blows
cold: when it is summer in the light,
and winter in the shade."

- Charles Dickens



"Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn."

- Lewis Grizzard

March Around the World

or just walk if you're feeling tired...

- Fire Prevention Month in The Philippines
- Women's History Month in the United States
- The wearing of a Martenitsa in Bulgaria and Martisor in Romania starts on March 1
- Saint David's Day, March 1
- Mardi Gras (February 3 to March 9 in regular years, February 4 to March 9 in leap years)
- Ash Wednesday (February 4 to March 10 in regular years, February 5 to March 10 in leap years)
- World Maths Day, the 1st Wednesday in March
- International Women's Day, March 8
- Pluto Planet Day in New Mexico, March 13
- White Day in Asia, March 14
- The Ides of March, the anniversary of the assassination of Julius Caesar by Brutus, Cassius, Casca and others, March 15
- Anniversary of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, March 15
- Saint Patrick's Day, March 17
- Saint Joseph's Day, March 19
- The equinox, named the vernal or spring equinox in the northern hemisphere and the autumnal equinox in the southern hemisphere, occurs on dates varying from March 19 to March 21
- Nowruz: New Year's Day in Iran and several other countries; also a holiday in Turkey and Central Asian countries as well, celebrated on the day of the equinox
- Good Friday, a Friday between March 20 and April 23, being the last Friday before Easter
- Human Rights' Day in South Africa, March 21
- Easter, the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21, sometimes in April
- World Water Day, March 22
- Pakistan Day, March 23
- Day of Polish-Hungarian Friendship, March 23
- Annunciation, March 25
- Celebration of the Greek War of Independence, March 25, 1821
- Prince Kamehameha Day, March 26: state holiday in the State of Hawaii, United States
- Bangladeshi Independence Day, March 26, 1971



March jokes

Q. What season is it when you are on a trampoline?
A. Spring-time!

Q. What's the difference between weather and climate?
A. You can't weather a tree, but you can climate.

Q. Can February March?
A. No, but April May!

Q. What happens when it rains cats and dogs?
A. You have to be careful not to step in a poodle.

New Words

Did you know that English is the language that grows the most each year? Every year a whole load of new words are added to the dictionary of English, making it a difficult language to keep up with.

This month we're giving you a fun little test to see how cutting edge your knowledge of English is. Below you'll find a list of new words and their definitions. See if you can spot which are from the latest Oxford English dictionary and which are from our own imagination! Answers below...

Hoody (also hoodie) (noun)

Informal British – a person, especially a youth, wearing a hooded top.

"I saw a hoody spraying graffiti onto the side of a train last night."

Upskill (verb and often as noun upskilling)

To teach somebody additional skills.

"I'm thinking of doing a teacher training course. I need to upskill."

Irritainment (noun)

Entertainment and media spectacles that are Annoying but you find yourself unable to stop watching them.

"Did you see X-Factor last night? It's so bad it's actually good! Classic irritainment."

Fantabulous (adjective)

Beyond fabulous. [blend of fantastic and fabulous]

"Where did you get the recipe for these chocolate chip cookies? They are fantabulous!"

McJob (noun)

A job in a service related field with low pay, low prestige and little opportunity for advancement

"If you don't work harder in class, you'll fail all your exams and end up with a McJob!"

Salad-Dodger (noun)

An overweight person.

"I like Michael Moore's films but he's a bit of a salad-dodger isn't he?"



Celebutante (noun)

A celebrity who is well known in fashionable society.

"I'm so sick of the teenage girls around here wanting to celebutes like Paris Hilton. Where have all the real ambitions gone?"

Twonk (noun)

British informal; a stupid or foolish person.

"Tell you what, that Lady Gaga is a right twonk."

Monkey-Bath (noun)

A bath so hot, that when lowering yourself in, you go: 'Oo! Oo! Oo! Aa! Aa! Aa!'

"Do I look red? I had a monkey-bath before I left the house this morning."

Blamestorming (verb)

Group discussion regarding who is responsible for a deadline missed or a failed project.

"After we failed the group assignment, we had to call an emergency blamestorming meeting."

Shoulder-surfing (verb)

The practice of spying on the user of a cash-dispensing machine or other electronic device in order to obtain their personal identification number, password, etc.

"I checked my email in the library and someone shoulder-surfed me! Now they're sending emails to all my friends!"

Real New Words: hoody, shoulder-surfing, twonk, celebutes, McJob

Answers:

Meet the Clever Pants actors!

This month... **Nancy!**

In the last of our interviews with the Clever Pants Actors, we caught up with the more feminine element of the troupe, Nancy, to find out about her experiences on tour.



Where and when were you born?

3.6.81 Middlesbrough.

What did you do before Clever Pants?

Acted with the Gibber Theatre Company, NTC theatre company and many, many, many waitressing jobs!

How has the reaction been to the shows this year?

The reaction has been crazy, the young people really seem to get involved right from the word go. They also shout out some unexpected things which keep us on our toes.

Where has been your favourite place so far?

I have 2 favourite places where we've been on tour, Barcelona because it's a cool city and there is always something going on and La Palma in the Canary Islands because it was like a tropical paradise with fruit growing on the trees.

Which is your favourite play?

I like performing "Camp Mosquito" the best as the audience (9-11) is such a fun age to play to as they get so involved.

And your favourite character?

I like playing Tracy the best as she's a baddy and it drives the children mad.

What's the best thing about being on tour?

The best thing about being on tour is seeing lots of amazing places and without doubt the Menu del Día.

And the worst thing?

Living out of a bag.

What has been the most memorable experience for you about the tour so far?

On stage, the 1st time we performed Camp Mosquito. Arriving at our apartment in La Palma and being able to pick avocados off the trees in the garden.

How many arguments have you had so far?

None... we're one big happy family!!!

What are the phrases your colleagues most overuse?

Brad: "hey and awesome" and Jason: "Amazing."

How do you relax on tour?

Find a quiet spot on a beach and read a trashy English gossip magazine.

What was the best meal you've had?

Been so many but one of the most memorable was in a barbecue restaurant, in the back of someone's house eating ribs, hmmm.

Describe your Clever Pants experience for us.

Clever Pants has so far been an amazing experience, allowing me to do many of my favourite things: act, travel, meet new interesting people and eat, eat, eat, drink and... eat. It's been so great to see what an amazing tool theatre can be to communicate to people who don't speak my language and that's been really exciting to be a part of.

March recipe: Chocolate chip cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) (226 grams) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup (150 grams) granulated white sugar
- 3/4 cup (160 grams) firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups (295 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups (270 grams) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup (100 grams) walnuts or pecans, coarsely chopped (optional)



Chocolate chip cookies were invented in 1930 by Ruth Wakefield, who was the owner of the Toll House Inn in Massachusetts. These cookies are easy to make, and truly delicious – even if we do say so ourselves (which we do).

Method

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) with rack in center of oven. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

In the bowl of your electric mixer (or with a hand mixer), cream the butter. Add the white and brown sugars and beat until fluffy (about 2 minutes). Beat in eggs, one at a time, making sure to beat well after each addition. Add the vanilla and beat until incorporated.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the egg mixture and beat until incorporated, adding the chocolate chips and nuts (if using) about half way through mixing. If you find the dough very soft, cover and refrigerate until firm (about 30 minutes).

For large cookies, use about a 2 tablespoon ice cream scoop or with two spoons, drop about 2 tablespoons of dough (35 grams) onto the prepared baking sheets. Bake for about 12 - 14 minutes, or until golden brown around the edges. Cool completely on wire rack.

A-CET

This year we will once again be working with the African Children's Educational Trust, donating money for every show we do to helping develop educational projects in Africa.

For more information visit their website at www.a-cet.org

Top eco-tip: if you print the newsletter out, do it in black and white at low resolution to reduce your use of ink

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