

Newsletter April 2010



www.clever-pants.com

e-mail: james@clever-pants.com



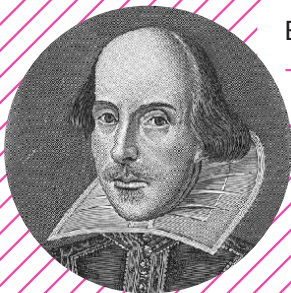
"April showers!"

Yes, it's April already, and we're back again with your monthly dose of stuff in English! We've got some laughs to tickle your ribs and some brainy witticisms to help you out of those awkward silences at dinner parties.

We've got some extraordinarily inaccurate horoscopes and some fascinating facts about coffee, and in honour of April Fools' Day, you'll find a delicious and easy recipe for everyone's favourite type of fool – a raspberry one!

See you in May!

Quotes from the great and good



Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.

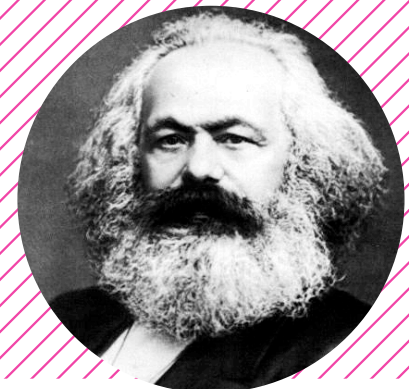
- Shakespeare

Start every day off with
a smile and get it over with.

- W. C. Fields

It is always the best policy to tell the truth,
unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

- Jerome K. Jerome



Catch a man a fish and you can sell it to him.
Teach a man to fish, and you ruin a wonderful business opportunity.

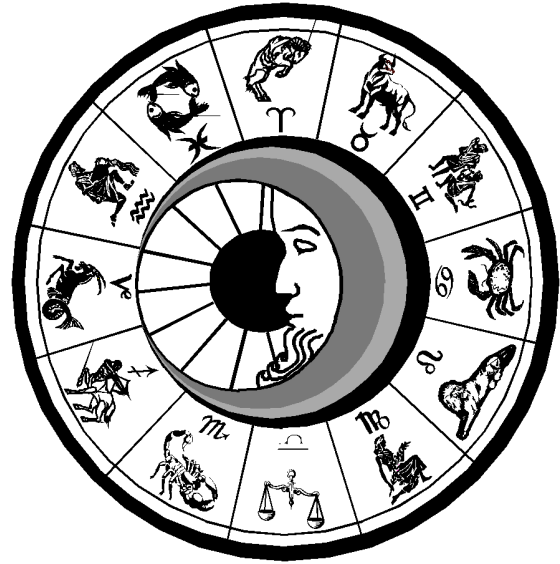
- Karl Marx

There cannot be a crisis next week.
My schedule is already full.

- Henry Kissinger

April Horoscopes

Some of you may remember that we here at Clever Pants are not only purveyors of the finest English Language Theatre for young learners of English, but also expert chefs, Fashionistas, Experts on all things weird and wonderful and gifted astrologers. In honour of April Fools' Day, we have put together a somewhat tongue in cheek collection of horoscopes for this most foolish of months. Wondering what's in store for you? Read on, and be (none the) wiser...



Pisces

Someone very close to you is, even as we speak, plotting to humiliate you in a very public way. It's someone you trust deeply, but they have secretly always found you a bit annoying and now they want to make you look downright silly in front of your nearest and dearest. Close the blinds, turn off the lights and don't leave the house. Trust nobody!

Taurus

Around the middle of the month of April, one of each of your pairs of socks will begin to disappear. Mysteriously and without warning, you will slowly find yourself more and more often wearing mismatched socks. By June you will not have a single matching pair left. There's nothing you can do.

Gemini

You are under a lot of stress at the moment – you're overworked, tired, you even have a cold! And it's not going to get any better. In fact, as April progresses your life is going to get more and more difficult, with the odds seemingly stacked against you. There is no light at the end of the tunnel. You are basically doomed.

Cancer

Ooh you lucky thing! Your sign for April is looking wonderful! The stars are telling us that you are going to reach a state of hitherto unimagined joy. Fame and fortune beckon, and it looks as though your life is scheduled to be filled with romance, satisfaction, delightful and delicious egg shaped gifts and bounding bunnies! Enjoy!

Leo

During April you are going to experience a profound sense of anxiety. You'll feel as though somebody is watching your every move, and it'll make you feel extremely on edge. You'll start to wonder about your job security, your friends, and even struggle with what to wear. It's all because you've forgotten to post a letter.

Virgo

On the 26th of April you will come across an old friend you haven't seen in years. You always disliked them and they haven't changed a bit. Be polite but don't exchange phone numbers.

Libra

Librans, your April is looking very passionate indeed. One of the planets is moving into the cusp of a bit of the sky, and you're set for some seriously steamy smooching! Beware of invitations to safari themed dinner parties however – not as much fun as they sound.

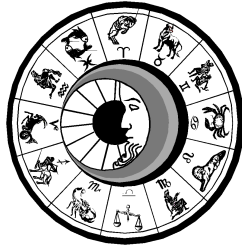
Scorpio

The stars are indicating that at some point during April 90% of all Scorpios are going to fall over and almost hurt themselves but actually be alright. 60% of those who fall will have somebody immediately approach them and ask them if they are hurt. 4% of the people who ask if they are hurt will be the fallen person's soulmate.

Sagittarius

Nothing interesting whatsoever is going to happen to Sagittarius people.

April Horoscopes (continued)



Capricorn

Those Capricorns who drive, beware! The universal signposts are pointing firmly at traffic based disasters during the month of April. Where possible, travel by donkey or on foot to avoid catastrophe.

Aquarius

Aquarians are due to suffer something of a crisis of confidence this month due to a friend making an unfriendly remark about them looking like Phil Collins. Don't lose faith in yourself. Every morning, upon waking, spend two full minutes looking in the mirror repeating: "You are a beautiful, intelligent human being. I love you."

Aries

Your favourite pen, which has served you well for such a long time, is ready to turn on you. Prepare yourself for enormous ink leakages at the worst possible moment.

Coffee

Are you a caffeine addict or do you do without the black stuff? Statistics show that Italy, Spain and Portugal are the countries where people drink the most coffee – on average Italians guzzle 6 espressos daily, while the Spanish partake in 4.7 and the Portuguese 4.5. That's a lot of coffee. We thought we would share some fun facts about our favourite morning beverage with you...



Did you know...?

- In 1675 Charles II, King of England issued a proclamation banning Coffee Houses. He said that they were places where people met to plot against him.
- October 1st is official "Coffee Day" in Japan.
- Coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world (oil is the first.)
- Brazil produces around 40% of the world's coffee supply.
- Black coffee with no sugar contains no calories.
- Coffee beans are really berries. Each berry contains two beans (pips).
- Worldwide, more 1400 millions cups of coffee are drunk every day.
- More than 20 million people worldwide work in the coffee industry.
- Scientists have discovered more than 800 different aromatic compounds in coffee.



April jokes

A Committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing, but as a group decide that nothing can be done.

7/5 of all people do not understand fractions.

A boy, frustrated with all the rules he had to follow, asked his father, "Dad, how soon will I be old enough to do as I please?" The father answered immediately, "I don't know. Nobody has lived that long yet."

April recipe: Raspberry Fool

April is famous for rain and practical jokes. April 1st is April Fools' Day, when practical jokes are played on unsuspecting parents and teachers all over the world. In honour of this prestigious day, we've brought you a classic British dessert recipe – Raspberry Fool!



Ingredients

Serves four

- 1/2 lb (225 g) fresh raspberries
- 1/4 cup (4 Tbls) 50 g caster sugar (superfine granulated)
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) 1/4 pt fresh double cream (heavy cream)
- 3/4 cup (150 ml) 5 fl oz plain yoghurt
- a few fresh mint leaves

Method

1. Crush the raspberries with a stainless steel or silver fork in a china or glass bowl.
2. Mix them with the sugar and put them on one side for 10 minutes. The sugar on the raspberries will draw out juice and bright colour.
3. Beat the double cream until it is thick, then, tablespoon by tablespoon, beat the yoghurt into it. The yoghurt will not thin it down; if you beat it each time you put in a dollop of yoghurt, it will bulk back up again. It allows you to have twice the amount of cream, as it were, with only half the amount of fat.
4. Swirl the raspberry and sugar mixture into the cream and yoghurt – do not mix it so thoroughly that it looks like pink yoghurt, swirl it in so that it is marbled.
5. It looks beautiful. Pour it into glasses so you can see the marbled effect, decorate each one with a sprig of mint and put to set in the fridge for 1–2 hours.

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

© Clever Pants 2010

www.clever-pants.com