

April Fool's Day

When and what is April Fool's Day?

April Fool's Day, also called All Fools' Day, is on 1st April. It is the custom in the UK to play a trick or a joke on someone on this day. If the person falls for the joke, then they are called an 'April Fool'.

What are its origins?

Although April Fools' Day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes.

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

What kind of tricks do people play?

Here are some April Fool's tricks.

·0 In the 1990s Burger King published an advert in the magazine *USA*

Today offering new 'Left-handed Whoppers' (hamburgers) for the 32 million left-handed Americans! Thousands of customers ordered the new burger in the restaurants.

·1 One year in the UK a children's news programme said that scientists had invented a 'Brain Band'. It was a coloured head band that you put on your head and it helped to make you more intelligent! In an on-line poll, 47 per cent of the children who heard the news wanted to buy a 'brain band'!

·2 In 1976 a very famous British astronomer told radio listeners that at 9.47 a.m. the earth was going to experience a feeling of less gravity. He said that Jupiter and Pluto would cross and if listeners jumped in the air at exactly 9.47 a.m. they would feel the sensation of having no gravity! Hundreds of listeners phoned the radio to say they had jumped and floated in the air!

