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Henry Ford invited an expert to check his plant. He said, 'Find the people, who are not active enough. Tell me who they are, and I will fire them!'

The expert did what he was asked for and finally returned to Henry Ford's office with his report.

'I've found a problem with one of your administrators,' he said. 'Every time I walked by, he was sitting with his feet up on the table¹. The man never does a thing. I think you should fire him!'

When Henry Ford learned the name of the man the expert was talking about, he said, 'I can't fire him. I pay that man to do nothing but think – and that's what he is doing.'

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A child asks his mother: 'Mommy, why are some of your hairs becoming grey?'

The mother answers: 'It is because of you. Every time you do something bad one of my hairs becomes grey!'

¹ **with his feet up on the table** — положив ноги на стол



‘Now I know why grandmother has only grey hairs on her head,’ replies the child.

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A young guy from Texas moves to California and goes to a big supermarket looking for a job.

The manager says, ‘Do you have any sales experience?’

The kid says, ‘Yeah, I was a salesman back home in Texas.’

Well, the boss liked the kid so he gave him the job.

‘You start tomorrow. I’ll come after we close and see how you did.’

His first day on the job was hard but he did well. After the supermarket was closed, the boss came.

‘How many sales did you make today?’

The kid says, ‘One.’

The boss says, ‘Just one? Our sales people usually make 20 or 30 sales a day. How much was the sale for?’

Kid says, ‘\$101,237.64.’

Boss says, ‘\$101,237.64? What did you sell?’

Kid says, ‘First I sold him a small fish hook¹. Then I sold him a medium fish hook. Then I sold him a larger fish hook.’

¹ **Fish hook** — рыболовный крючок

Then I sold him a new fishing rod¹. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said at the coast, so I told him he would need a boat, so I sold him a boat. Then he said he didn't think his car had enough power to pull it, so I sold him a truck.'

The boss said, 'A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and truck?'

Kid says, 'No, he came here to buy sweets for his wife, with whom he had a fight² and I said, 'Well, your weekend is spoiled, you might as well go fishing to make it better.'

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A teacher asks pupils to name an animal that begins with an 'E'. One boy says, 'Elephant.'

Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a 'T'. The same boy says, 'Two elephants.'

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with 'M'.

The boy cries from the other side of the wall: 'Maybe an elephant!'

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A young mother wants to rest for some minutes after a long day. But her little daughter has other plans for her mother's time.

'Read me a story, Mom,' the little girl asks.

'Give Mommy a few minutes to rest. Then I'll be happy to read you a story,' replies the mother.

The little girl wants the story now. Then the mother pulls off³ the back page of the magazine she is reading. There is a full-page picture of the world. She tears it into some pieces⁴ and asks her daughter to put the picture together⁵ and then she promises to read her a story.

A short time later, the little girl says her mother that she finished the puzzle. The mother sees that the picture is whole

¹ **Fishing rod** – удочка

² **To have a fight** – поссориться

³ **To pull off** – отрывать

⁴ **To tear into some pieces** – разорвать на несколько кусочков

⁵ **To put together** – собрать

again. She asks her daughter how she did it so quickly. The little girl says that on the reverse side of the page there is a picture of a little girl.

‘You see, Mommy, when I got the little girl together, the whole world came together.’

* * *

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip¹. After a good supper they went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes woke up and pushed his friend awake².

‘Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.’

Watson replied, ‘I see millions and millions of stars.’

‘What does that tell you?’ Holmes questioned.

Watson thought for a minute. ‘It tells me that there are millions of galaxies and maybe billions of planets. I suppose that the time is a quarter past three³. And I think that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?’

Holmes was silent for a minute, and then spoke. ‘Watson, it tells me that someone has stolen our tent!’

* * *

A Mafia Godfather⁴ and his lawyer walk into a room and meet the accountant, who worked for the Godfather a long time ago.

The Godfather asks the accountant, ‘Where is the 3 million dollars you stole from me?’ The accountant does not answer.

The Godfather asks again, ‘Where is the 3 million dollars you stole from me?’

The lawyer notices, ‘Sir, this man is deaf and cannot understand you, but I can interpret for you.’

The Godfather says, ‘Then ask him where my money is!’

The lawyer, using sign language⁵, asks the accountant where the 3 million dollars is. The accountant signs back, ‘I don’t know what you are talking about.’

¹ **Camping trip** – поход

² **Pushed his friend awake** – толкнул своего друга, чтобы разбудить

³ **Quarter past three** – 15 минут четвертого

⁴ **Mafia Godfather** – крестный отец мафии

⁵ **Sign language** – язык знаков

The lawyer interprets to the Godfather, ‘He doesn’t know what you are talking about.’

The Godfather pulls out a pistol and threatens the accountant with it, ‘Ask him again where my money is!’

The lawyer signs to the accountant, ‘He wants to know where it is!’

The accountant signs back, ‘OK! OK! OK! The money is hidden under the tree behind my house!’

The Godfather says, ‘Well... what did he say?’

The lawyer interprets to the Godfather, ‘He says... go to hell¹... you don’t have the strength to kill.’

* * *

Five Englishmen board a train² just behind five Scots, who as a group have only one ticket. Just before the conductor comes, all the Scots go into the toilet at the back of the car.

As the conductor passes the toilet, he knocks and says ‘Tickets, please!’ and one of the Scots slides a ticket under the door. It is checked, pushed back under the door, and when it is safe all the Scots come out and take their seats.

The Englishmen are very impressed by the Scots’ trick. On the trip back, the five Englishmen decide to try this themselves and buy only one ticket. They notice that, however, the Scots did not buy any tickets this time.

Anyway, again, just before the conductor comes, the Scots go into one of the toilets, the Englishmen into the other. Then one of the Scots comes out, knocks on the Englishmen’s toilet’s door and says ‘Ticket, Please!’ When the ticket slides out under the door, he takes it, quickly returns to his toilet and closes the door.

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Jim was driving along the road one day when the local policeman, his friend, signaled him to stop.

‘What’s wrong, Eric?’ Jim asked.

¹ **Go to hell** — идите к черту

² **To board a train** — садиться в поезд

‘Well didn’t you know, Jim, that your wife fell out of the car about five miles back?’ said Eric.

‘Ah, thank God!’ he replied. ‘I thought I’d gone deaf!’

* * *

Napoleon was talking to a colonel of a Hungarian army who had been taken prisoner¹ in Italy. The colonel mentioned he had fought in the army of Maria Theresa².

‘You must have a few years under your belt!’³ said Napoleon.

‘I’m sure I’ve lived sixty or seventy years,’ replied the colonel.

‘You say,’ Napoleon continued, ‘you have not counted the years you have lived?’

The colonel replied, ‘Sir, I always count my money, my shirts, and my horses – but as for my years, I know nobody who wants to steal them, and I’m sure I will never lose them.’

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A woman is telling her friend, ‘It is I who made my husband a millionaire.’

‘And what was he before you married him?’ the friend asks.

The woman answers ‘A billionaire.’

* * *

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was impossible for a whale to eat a human because though it was a very large animal its throat was very small.

The little girl said that a whale ate John. The teacher said again that a whale could not eat a human; it was impossible.

The little girl said, ‘When I get to heaven I will ask John.’

The teacher asked, ‘What if John went to hell?’

The little girl replied, ‘Then you ask him.’

¹ **To be taken prisoner** – быть захваченным

² **Maria Theresa** – Мария Терезия (1717-1780), правительница Австрии, Венгрии и некоторых других владений

³ **You must have a few years under your belt!** – Должно быть, у вас уже много лет за плечами!

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It was the first day of school and a new pupil named Martinez, the son of a Mexican shopkeeper, entered the fourth grade. The teacher said, 'Let's begin by reviewing some American history. Who said 'Give me Liberty, or give me Death?' She saw a whole room of blank faces¹, except for Martinez, who had his hand up. 'Patrick Henry, 1775.'

'Very good! Who said 'Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth''²?'

Again, no answer except for Martinez: 'Abraham Lincoln, 1863.' said Martinez.

The teacher said the class, 'Class, you should be ashamed³. Martinez, who is new to our country, knows more about its history than you do.'

She heard a loud whisper: 'Go to hell, Mexicans.'

'Who said that?' she asked strictly. Martinez put his hand up. 'Jim Bowie, 1836.'

At that point, a pupil in the back said, 'I'm going to throw up⁴.'

The teacher furiously asks 'All right! Now, who said that?'

Again, Martinez says, 'George Bush to the Japanese Prime Minister, 1991.'

Now with almost a hysteria someone says, 'You little monster. If you say anything else, I'll kill you.'

Martinez cries at the top of his voice, 'Gary Condit to Chandra Levy, 2001.'

The teacher fainted⁵. And as the class gathered around the teacher on the floor, someone said, 'Oh, we're in BIG trouble!'

Martinez said, 'Saddam Hussein, 2003.'

* * *

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace⁶ for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?'

¹ **Blank faces** – непонимающие лица

² **Shall not perish from the earth** – не исчезнет с лица земли

³ **You should be ashamed** – вам должно быть стыдно

⁴ **I'm going to throw up** – меня сейчас вырвет

⁵ **To faint** – упасть в обморок

⁶ **Pearl necklace** – жемчужное ожерелье

‘You’ll know tonight.’ he said.

That evening, the man came home with a package and gave it to his wife. She opened it gladly and found a book ‘The meaning of dreams’ inside.

* * *

A car was crushed in an accident in a street. No wonder¹, many people gathered around it.

A journalist wanted to get this story very much, but he could not get near the car. He was clever and started to shout loudly, ‘Let me through! Let me through!² I am the son of the victim.’

The people made way for him.

Lying in front of the car was a horse.

* * *

A couple had two little boys, 8 and 10 years old, who were very mischievous. They were always getting into trouble³ and their parents knew that if anything bad happened in their town, it was probably their sons’ fault.

The boys’ mother heard that a priest in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he could speak with her boys. The priest agreed, but asked to see them individually.

So the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the priest in the afternoon. The priest, a large man with a booming voice⁴, sat the younger boy down and asked him strictly, ‘Where is God?’

The boy’s mouth opened, and his eyes became wide, but he made no answer.

So the priest repeated the question in an even stricter tone, ‘Where is God?’

Again the boy didn’t answer.

So the priest raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy’s face and asked again, ‘WHERE IS GOD!?’

¹ **No wonder** – неувидительно, что...

² **Let me through!** – Пропустите меня!

³ **To get into trouble** – попадать в неприятности

⁴ **with a booming voice** – громогласный