



# Golly, We're Gullible!



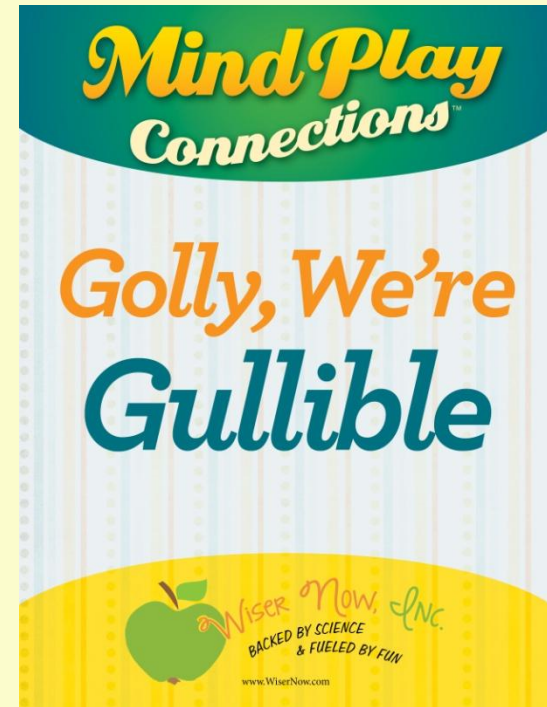
# It's good to laugh at ourselves



March is Mirth Month, April is Humor Month, and May is Smile Month. Anytime at all is a good time to laugh, which means that this slide show, inspired by April Fool's Day, is meant to provide fun throughout the year. Just as our eyes are fooled by optical illusions, our minds are fooled by our gullibility – or sometimes just our trusting nature. Have fun with this.

## Intro

This slide show is partly excerpted from the MindPlay Connections™ (MPC) title, “Golly, We’re Gullible.”



The MPC offers more activities than we were able to include here, and all are printable. You can order the instantly downloadable version [here](#). In the meantime, use the following slides to share your thoughts and experiences. Enjoy!

# How gullible are you?



For hundreds of years people have been taken in by April Fool's Day hoaxes, either because they aren't thinking clearly or they have forgotten it's April 1st. On the following slides are examples of a combination of an Activity Connection activity and a Wisener Now one using, in part, examples from the delightful website [www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/index](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/index)

# How gullible are you?

## The Spaghetti Harvest

In 1957, the BBC news show *Panorama* announced that, thanks to a very mild winter *and* the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied the announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees.



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## The Spaghetti Harvest

Many people called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax **X**

# How gullible are you?

## Prehistoric Penguin Murals

In 1991, prehistoric murals were discovered on the walls of an underwater cave in eastern France. The murals revealed that penguins and man once lived side by side in that region. Historians, accustomed to seeing prehistoric depictions of animals such as bison and deer, were extremely surprised to find the penguins.



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## Prehistoric Penguin Murals

Fact. The penguin murals were found in 1991 by deep-sea divers exploring a cave 7.5 miles southeast of Marseilles.



What do you think?

Fact **X** or Hoax



# How gullible are you?

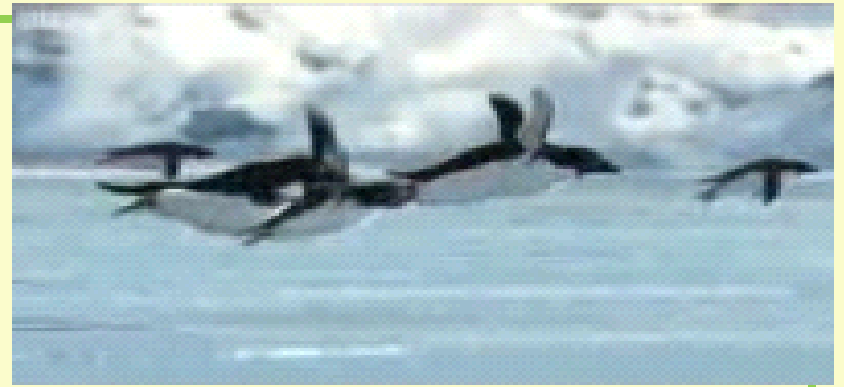
## Flying penguins

The BBC has a history of creative spoofs. In 2008 it announced that camera crews filming near the Antarctic for its natural history series *Miracles of Evolution* had captured footage of Adélie penguins taking to the air. Presenter Terry Jones explained that, instead of huddling together to endure the Antarctic winter, these penguins took to the air and flew thousands of miles to the rainforests of South America where they "spend the winter basking in the tropical sun."

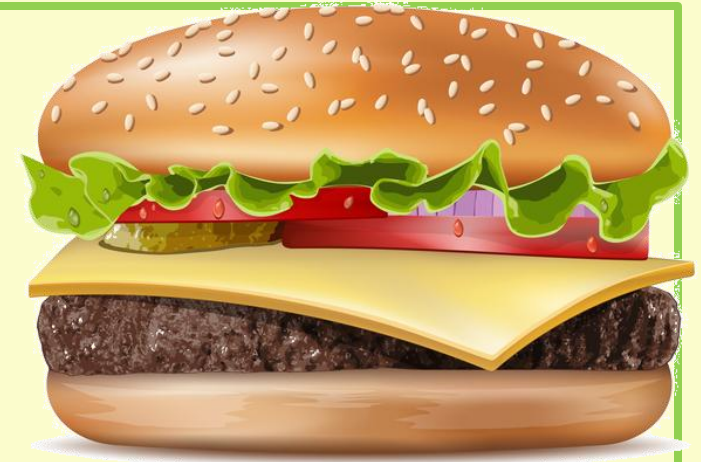
See the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dfWzp7rYR4>

And see how it was done at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8>



# How gullible are you?



## A Whopper of a Whopper

In 1998 Burger King published a full-page ad in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a “Left-Handed Whopper” specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. It said the new Whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but the left-handed whopper had “all condiments rotated 180 degrees, thereby redistributing the weight of the sandwich so that the bulk of the condiments will skew to the left.”

What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## A Whopper of a Whopper

Burger King's ad was real, but the product was fake – as anyone who thinks about how easy it is to rotate a circular bun understands. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version."



What do you think?  
Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax **X**

# How gullible are you?

## New Zealand Wasp Swarm

In 1949 Phil Shone, a New Zealand deejay for radio station 1ZB, announced to his listeners that a mile-wide wasp swarm was headed towards Auckland. He urged them to take a variety of steps to protect themselves and their homes from the winged menace. For instance, he suggested that they wear their socks over their trousers when they left for work, and that they leave honey-smear traps outside their doors.



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## New Zealand Wasp Swarm

It was a hoax, but hundreds of people dutifully heeded his advice.



What do you think?

Fact      or Hoax   **X**

# How gullible are you?

## Chicken Manure-Powered Electrical Plant

The Mitsubishi Bank contacted venture capitalists about an exciting new investment opportunity: Fibropower, a

14-megawatt-generating plant fueled entirely by chicken poop. Finally, the investment prospectus boasted, they had found a way to put unwanted chicken manure to good use.



What do you think?  
Fact \_\_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## Chicken Manure-Powered Electrical Plant

Fact. In 1991, Mitsubishi Bank in London sought investors to back a 22-million-pound loan to fund Fibropower. Because Mitsubishi Bank publicized the offer around April 1, many investors assumed they were joking.



What do you think?

Fact   X   or Hoax

# How gullible are you?

## Vodka bars

A Russian beverage company announced a new product: chewy vodka bars. The company hopes the candy bars will compete successfully against popular Western imports such as Mars and Snickers bars. The vodka bars will be available in lemon, coconut, and salted cucumber flavors.



What do you think?

Fact  or Hoax



# How gullible are you?

## Vodka bars

This story was reported by the Tass Russian News Agency in 1994. It was a hoax then, but it is currently possible to get *many* forms of liquor in candy and fudge.



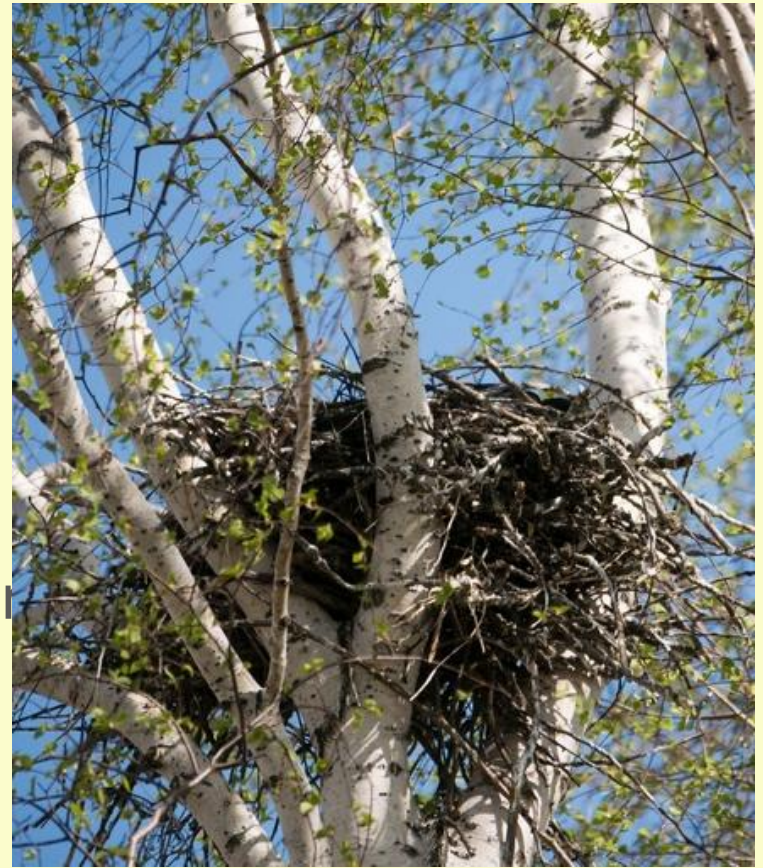
What do you think?

Fact      or Hoax   **X**

# How gullible are you?

## Cat Bird?

In Ireland, a cat decided the best place to give birth to her four kittens was in a nearby bird's nest. It is believed a pair of wood pigeons built the nest which is about 8 feet off the ground, and vacated it a few days prior to the cat's special delivery.



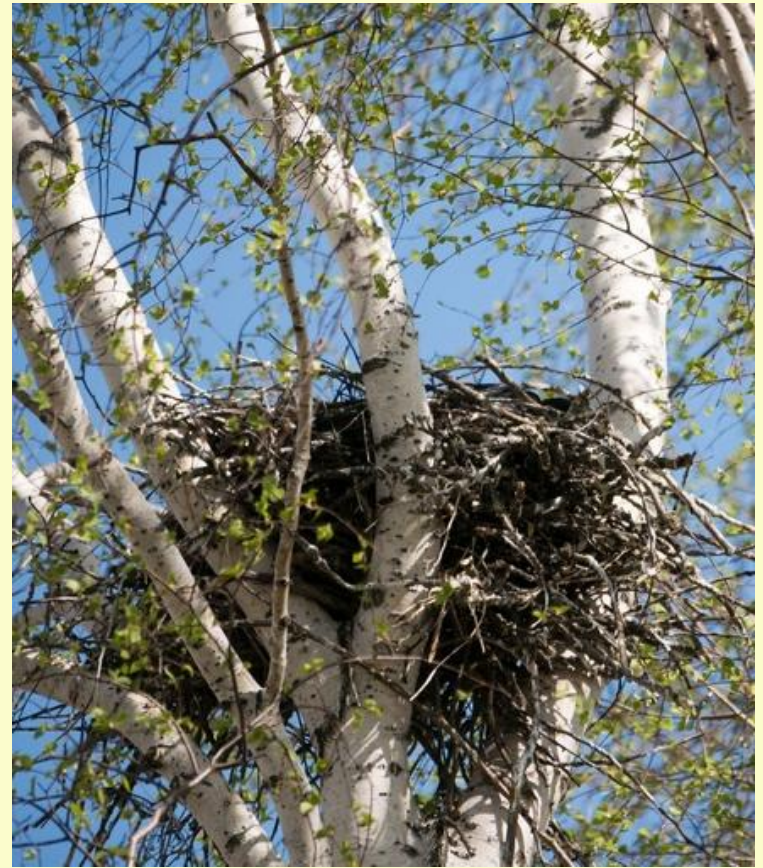
What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## Cat Bird?

Fact. Reported in Louth County, Ireland, the cat and her kittens were found curled up in the nest by the owner of a local pet supply store.



What do you think?

Fact   X   or Hoax

# How gullible are you?

## The Tooth Telephone

Engineers recently unveiled the world's first tooth telephone, perfect for those who want to talk hands-free while on the go. When implanted into a tooth, the tiny device vibrates to let the user know there's a call. Users speak normally and the tiny microphone picks up their voice. Incoming sounds are transferred to the inner ear by means of bone resonance.



What do you think?  
Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## The Tooth Telephone

Fact. The Tooth Telephone was invented by Jimmy Loizeau and James Auger, both researchers at MIT Media Lab Europe. It is not yet available for consumers.



What do you think?

Fact  X  or Hoax

# How gullible are you?

## Carrots Reclassified as a Fruit

In 1979, officials in the European Union confirmed what many have long suspected: that carrots are not, in fact, a vegetable but are actually a fruit. The officials urged that appropriate reclassification should begin at once.

What do you think?  
Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_



# How gullible are you?

## Carrots Reclassified as a Fruit

Bureaucrats in the European Union *did* classify carrots as a fruit in a 1979 directive, apparently because the Portuguese use carrots to make jam, and anything used to make jam, in their eyes, must be a fruit.

What do you think?

Fact  X  or Hoax    



# How gullible are you?

## Purple carrots go on sale

In another carrot story, Sainsbury's, a popular British grocery store, advertised that they would soon be selling purple carrots in an effort to make this vegetable more interesting again to children.

This 2002 story was also true, but hardly news. Carrots have actually come in purple varieties for thousands of years. The orange ones are the newcomers, bred to be that color in the 1500s by Dutch growers paying homage to their royal family, the House of Orange.)





# How gullible are you?

## Daylight Saving Time Contest

In 1984 the Eldorado Daily Journal, based in Illinois, announced a contest to see who could save the most daylight for daylight saving time. Beginning with the first day of daylight saving time, the winning contestant would be whoever succeeded in saving the most daylight. No moonlight, dawn, or twilight was allowed, but cloudy day daylight was. Light could be stored in any container.



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?



## Daylight Saving Time Contest

Despite the fact that this would seem to be an obvious hoax, the contest received a huge, nationwide response.

What do you think?

Fact      or Hoax   **X**

# How gullible are you?



## Burger with Fries

In the Roselawn Cemetery in Fort Collins, Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Burger are buried next to Mr. and Mrs. Fries.

What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?

## Burger with Fries

This is mostly true. Here's that background tombstone up close.



What do you think?  
Fact **X** or Hoax

# How gullible are you?

## Bearskin Helmets Need Trimming

In 1980, Soldier magazine revealed that the fur on the bearskin helmets worn by the Irish guards while on duty at Buckingham Palace keeps growing and needs to be regularly trimmed. The article quoted Major Ursa who noted, "Bears hibernate in the winter and the amazing thing is that in the spring the skins really start to sprout."



What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_\_ or Hoax \_\_\_\_

# How gullible are you?



## Bearskin Helmets Need Trimming

The photo is a hoax, too, of course.

.

What do you think?

Fact \_\_\_ or Hoax  X

**DINOSAUR HUNTING LICENSE**  
**SPECIAL PERMIT**  
No. 1 81—U022

Place  
Stamp  
Here

ISSUED TO:

Name Barley Oud  
Street 613 Central Ave.  
City Lexington State Ky.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY U. S. REPTILE CONTROL COMMISSION  
*Restricted to Uintah County, Utah, Only.*

This license entitles the holder to hunt for, pursue, shoot, kill and remove from that area known as Dinosaur Control Area of Uintah County, Utah, which is in the vicinity of Dinosaur National Monument the following types of reptilian wild game:

- A. TYRANNOSAURUS REX — 1 only (Adult Male)
- B. DIPLODOCUS GIGANTICUS — 1 only (Either Sex) and not less than 5000 lbs. live weight
- C. STEGOSAURS — 2 only (Males) any size
- D. PTERODACTYLI — 4 only (Without young)

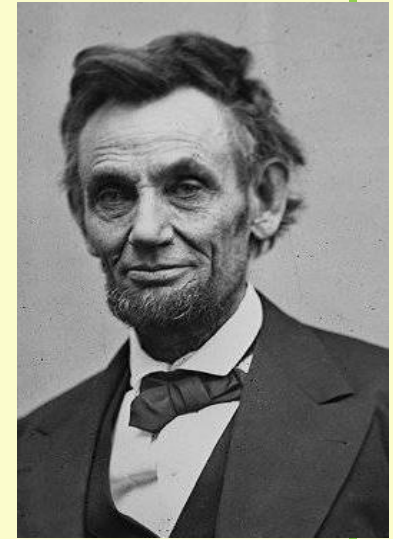
The holder of this license agrees to remove all such game, legally bagged by him under the proper restrictions, properly preserved and in sanitary condition within 5 days of time of reptiles' death, and further agrees to have said game inspected by the Utah Game Warden before removal.

Signed Al E. Oup  
ISSUED BY AL E. OUP  
Deputy Lizard Warden, Vernal, Utah

For more examples, visit the Museum of Hoaxes  
<http://hoaxes.org/aprilframe.html>

# Which do you think is most true?

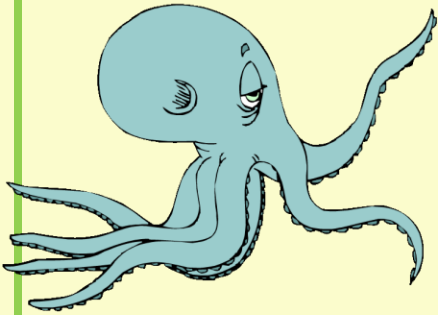
You can fool all the people some of the time,  
and some of the people all the time,  
but you cannot fool all the people all the time.  
~ Abraham Lincoln



It may be true that you can't fool all the people all the time,  
but you can fool enough of them to rule a large country.  
~ Will Durant

You can fool too many of the people too much of the time.  
~ James Thurber





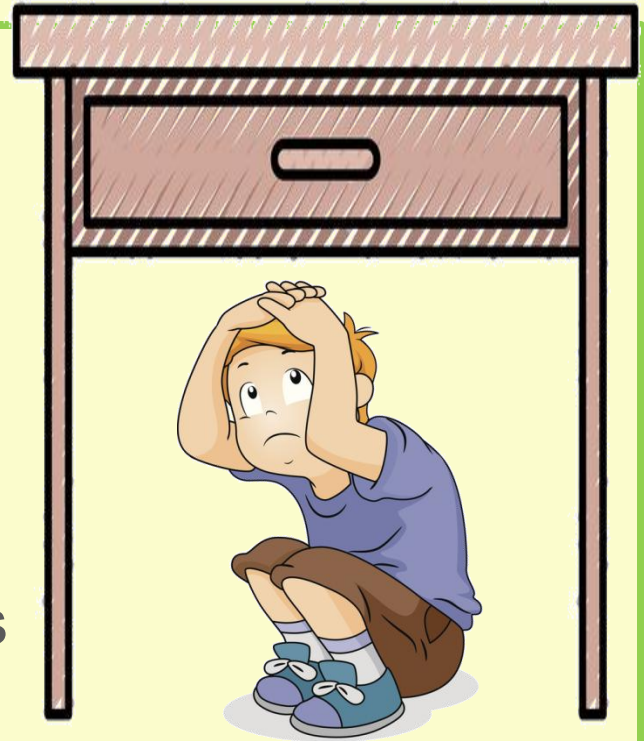
## Children are *most* gullible

Have you heard of the tree octopus, the endangered species that lives in trees of the Pacific Northwest in Washington State and British Columbia? That hoax was used by researchers at the University of Connecticut to test school children for their tendency to believe what they read on the Internet.

The children had been prescreened in a way that would have suggested they could discriminate between what was true and false, but *every* student believed the content unless they had been exposed to information that it was a hoax. In fact, according to the article, social psychologists have found “that **kids believe virtually everything they hear**. Belief seems to be the default reaction to new information – not doubt or even neutrality.”

# Children are gullible

If you are old enough to have attended school in the 1950s – a time when Americans tended to be both optimistic and oddly fearful – you will not be surprised by children's gullibility. That was the generation after all, that had not only fire drills, but bomb drills. For the latter, children were taught that in case of an atomic bomb attack, they should crouch under their desks to protect themselves. Few questioned the ridiculousness of that.

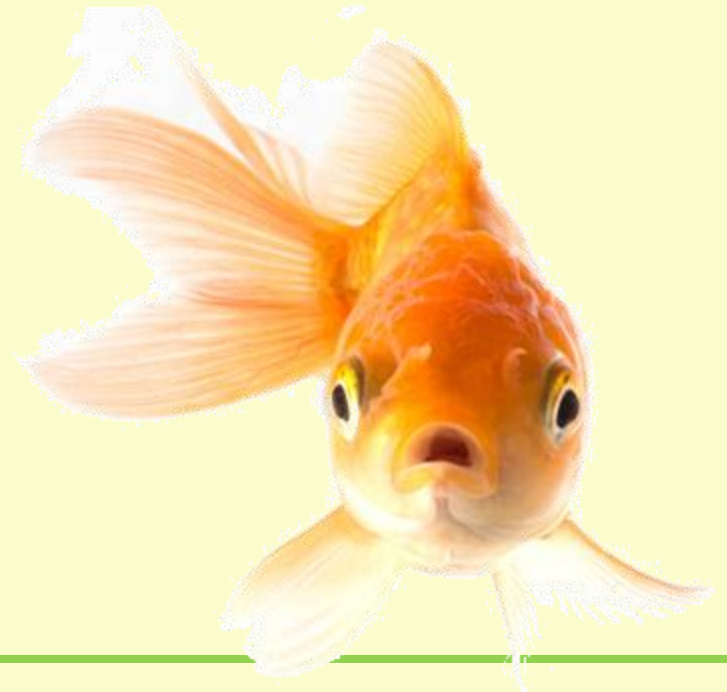


# Children are gullible

Andy Riley is the author of multiple, perversely humorous books, including *Great Lies to Tell Small Kids*, who has long known how easy it is to fool children.

Some of his suggested lies are just silly:

- One in ten fish are afraid of water.
- The Great Wall of China has a cat flap every five miles.



# Children are gullible

Some of Mr. Riley's suggested lies were intended to get kids to do dumb stuff:

- If you shove uncooked spaghetti down the little holes in the phone receiver, it'll shoot out your friend's ear. (Obviously this was when everyone still had landlines.)
- Put a slice of ham in the DVD player; it will play a short film about pigs.



# Children are gullible

And some of his suggested lies were meant to mess with their minds:

- Bowling balls have retractable eyes.
- Over 2500 clouds crash every year.
- Eggs talk to each other after you shut the fridge door.



# Children are gullible

Talk about it:

- What unusual things did you believe when you were a kid (often because an older brother told you it was so)?

- Did you try to fool other kids? If so, did you ever get in trouble for it?



# Adults are often complicit

- As a child yourself, did you believe in Santa/St. Nick, the Easter Bunny, or the Tooth Fairy?
- How did you feel when the truth was revealed?
- Did your children believe in Santa/St. Nick, the Easter Bunny, or the Tooth Fairy?
- How did you handle revealing the truth to them? What was their reaction?



# Hoax vs. Humbug

The showman P.T. Barnum called his promotion of things that were wildly exaggerated “humbug,” Hoaxes were about scamming or duping people, giving them fraudulent goods, inflicting harm. Humbug was “all in good fun,” and enjoyable.

Talk about humbug you have pulled on children, such as:

- Stealing their nose (Pulling on their nose and then sticking our thumb between our first two fingers)
- Finding a quarter in their ears
- Blowing on traffic lights to make them turn green (by watching when the cross street light turns yellow)





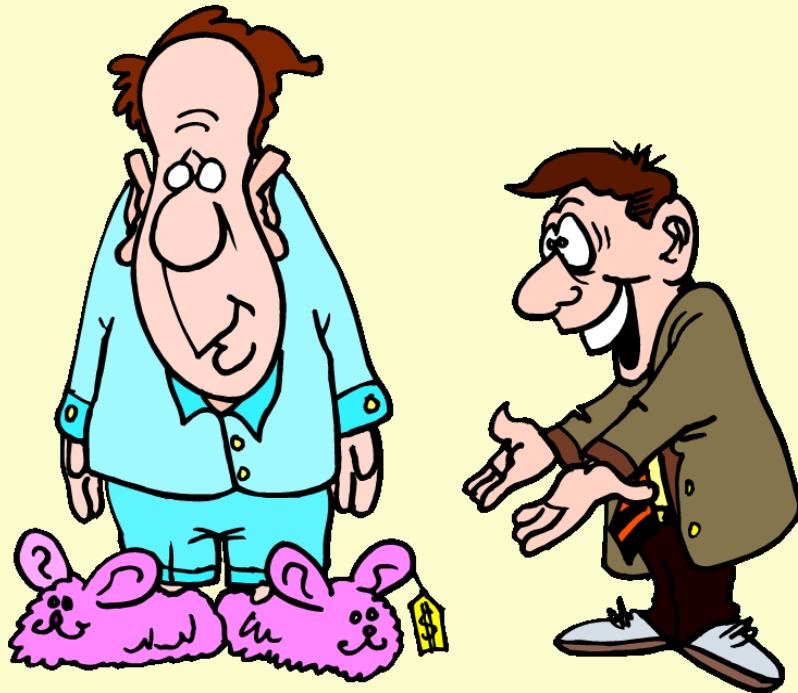
# Adults can be as gullible as children

Adults also tend to believe anything we hear unless it conflicts with something we already believe. What's scary about that is that we tend to maintain our beliefs once they are formed (called belief perseverance) even when facts disprove them. We hang onto our beliefs for cultural or emotional reasons, because we are engaging in wishful thinking or because we *want* to believe the person (parent, teacher, politician) who has been the cause of our false belief. Even when we're told that the scientific evidence contradicts our beliefs, we have a tendency to distrust the science.

- Do you think that's true of you?



# Who are you susceptible to?



Sweet-talking salesmen:  
Have you ever been convinced by a smooth, fast-talking beautiful woman or handsome man to make a purchase you later regretted? If so, what did you buy? Did you later return it? Why or why not?

# Who are you susceptible to?



In the book, *The Seven Sisters* by Margaret Drabble is a story about a teenager on a train headed to Milan where she was confronted by a stranger who said she was an opera singer going to perform at La Scala and her purse had been stolen. She said she had to get from the station to the theatre and asked for a loan, saying she would pay her back, taking down the teenager's name and the address of her hotel. The other passengers were disgusted with the teenager for being taken in by what they were certain was a scam artist, but a few days later the money was returned in full, along with a ticket to the opera.

- Have you ever taken what seemed like a foolish risk and been rewarded by the outcome? Talk about it.

# Who are you susceptible to?



**Fun gullibility:** If you have been seriously emotionally or financially damaged by a scammer, gullibility may not seem like a “fun” subject, but many of us have at least one happy memory when we were completely “taken in.” Perhaps it was a surprise party to which we were brought under false pretenses. Perhaps a hoax was the cause of an introduction to a new friend or opportunity.

- Share your thoughts about a good time or happy result from being gullible.

# Gullible vs. trusting – be the latter

A gullible person is unable or unwilling to consider the facts at hand and make a reasonable conclusion. This makes the person susceptible to being taken advantage of. A trusting person can also be taken advantage of, but he or she makes the decision to trust based on some sort of evidence or experience that provides a *reason* to trust.

The late Julian B. Rotter, a psychologist and respected expert on interpersonal trust, conducted research that showed high trusters are:

- Happier
- More ethical
- More likable/have more friends
- Considered more physically attractive



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

We often have misunderstandings about the places we might travel to around the world. Can you tell what's true and which is a myth on the following slides?



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

1. If you visit a replica of an ancient Roman home in Italy you will see a vomitorium where people went to purge themselves after eating gluttonous meals.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

1. If you visit a replica of an ancient Roman home in Italy you will see a vomitorium where people went to purge themselves after eating gluttonous meals.

a. True     

b. False   X  

Vomitoria were the entranceways through which crowds entered and exited a stadium.





# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

2. If you go to a Scandinavian museum, you will learn that Vikings wore horns on their helmets to invoke the strength of oxen in battle.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

2. If you go to a Scandinavian museum, you will learn that Vikings wore horns on their helmets to invoke the strength of oxen in battle.

a. True     

b. False   X  

There is no evidence that Vikings ever wore horns on their helmets.



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

3. London deserves its reputation for rainy weather; never venture out without an umbrella there.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

3. London deserves its reputation for rainy weather; never venture out without an umbrella there.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False   X  

The truth is that Miami, Florida gets 2-1/2 times the rain each year that London does. But London, being on the coast, is drizzly and foggy, particularly in winter.



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

4. Venice is sinking.

a. True \_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

4. Venice is sinking.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False   X  



It was true during the first  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 20th century when an aquifer beneath it was being drained to provide water to the mainland, but that practice was stopped when the effect was realized. Now the threat is global warming and the rise of sea levels.

# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

5. The Eiffel Tower grows and shrinks according to the temperature.

a. True

b. False



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

5. The Eiffel Tower grows and shrinks according to the temperature.

a. True   X  

b. False    

It is 6 inches taller in summer than winter.





# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

6. Uluru, the huge red monolith in Australia that is sacred to the Aborigines, is believed to be like an iceberg, that is, with the majority of the rock lying up to several miles or 5-6 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

6. Uluru, the huge red monolith in Australia that is sacred to the Aborigines, is believed to be like an iceberg, that is, with the majority of the rock lying up to several miles or 5-6 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.

a. True   X  

b. False       



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

7. If you dug a hole straight through the Earth from Chicago, you would end up in China.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_



# Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

7. If you dug a hole straight through the Earth from Chicago, you would end up in China.

a. True \_\_\_\_\_

b. False \_\_\_\_\_

This legend, common to the childhoods of many, ignores the impossibility of such a feat, and the fact that the opposite side of the earth from most land masses is an ocean. Northern Chile, however, is opposite China, so try starting there.





## Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

8. There is a top-secret city beneath Disneyland.

- a. True \_\_\_\_
- b. False \_\_\_\_



## Oh, the places you'll go! Travel myths.

8. There is a top-secret city  
beneath Disneyland.

a. True     

b. False   X  

But in Disney World there is a huge system of tunnels beneath the Magic Kingdom that allows for, among other things, costumed characters to appear in specific sections of the park like – ummm – magic.

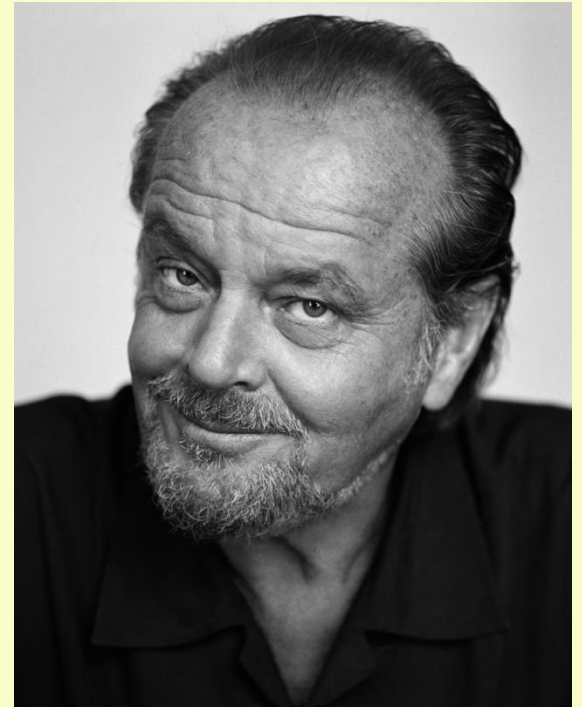
# Which do you believe?

Never let a fool kiss you,  
or a kiss fool you.

~ Joey Adams

Almost everybody's happy to  
be a fool for love.

~ Jack Nicholson



# Fun Foolery

April Fool's Day is the one day of the year we *expect* people to play tricks on us, but we are strong believers in tricks that will make us laugh at the idea and our vulnerability, Tricks that are embarrassing, mean-spirited, or dangerous are *not* fun or funny. On the following pages are pranks we think fall into the category of fun/silly. We hope you agree.

- What do you think of them?
- Would you fall for them?
- What other ideas do you have?





# Would you be fooled?

Make some capital E's out of construction paper. Put them on a plate or in a cake pan covered with foil, and put out a "Help yourself to a brownie" sign.



# Would you laugh?

Put googly eyes on everything in the refrigerator or pantry or on your toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant).

Leave them there for ongoing smiles.



# Would you bite?

Offer someone a “fried egg” made of plain yogurt and a peach half.



# Take advantage of puns

Tell someone there's  
a leak (leek) in the  
bathtub or sink





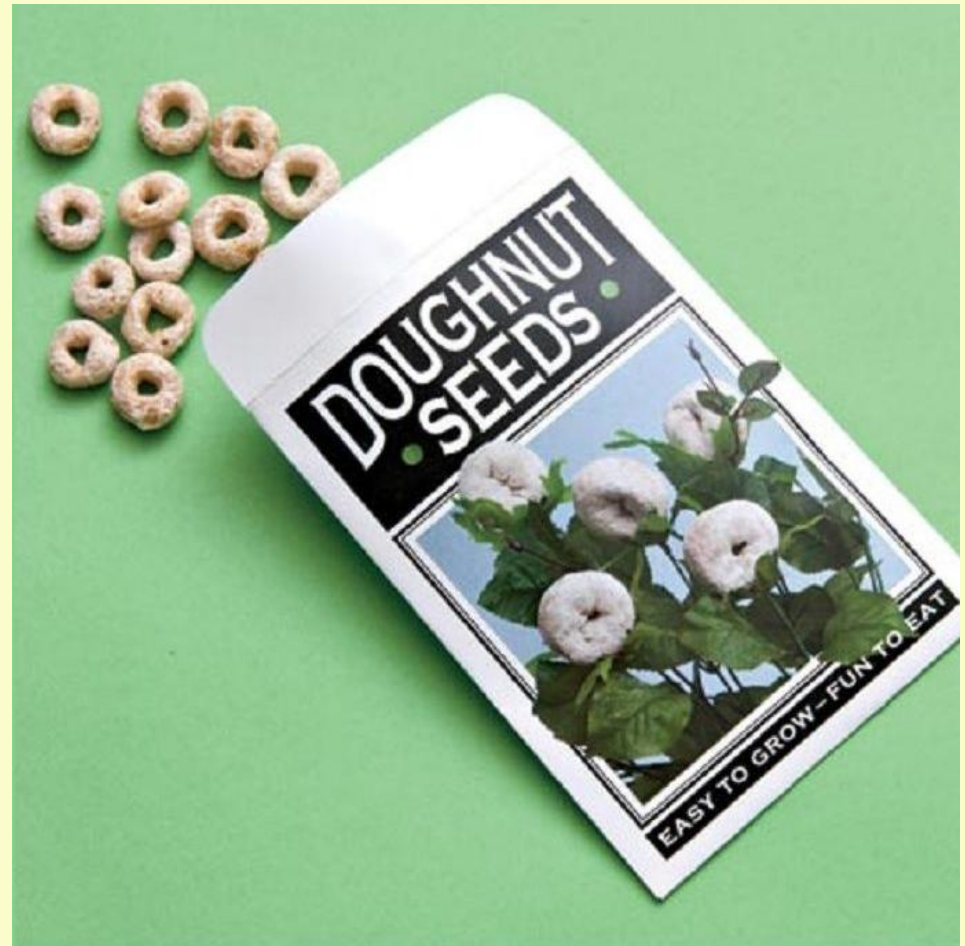
\* Brands may vary

## Another pun

Ask someone,  
“Would you like an Ipad?”

# Another food idea

Cheerios as  
doughnut seeds





## More food foolery

**Replace Tootsie Rolls  
with carrots**

## Even more food foolery

“French fries” that are really cinnamon apples

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Peel apples and cut into sticks with a crinkle cutter.
- Toss with cinnamon and sugar.
- Place on a lightly greased baking sheet.
- Bake 8-12 minutes in a 400F oven.
- Drizzle with strawberry preserves (to look like ketchup) if desired.





# Not pranks, but more “Fun with Food” ideas



# Going for visual effect with minimal effort



**Secure to the window in a door two dozen balloons with food wrap to make it look like the whole room is filled.**



# You might add a smiley face, too

Cover someone's work space in post-it notes. Even just a covered computer screen will (we hope) amuse the receiver.



Few of us can resist touching a “wet paint” sign to see if it’s true.

Put a “wet paint” sign on a bench that is perfectly dry and see how many people touch it to test the sign. Or sit beside the sign reading a newspaper and see if anyone warns you.



# Pie in the sky?

Stare at something up in the sky or on the ground and see if you can get others to do the same. Then say “April Fool” when someone asks what they’re all staring at, and ask that person to join you. Try to get a whole crowd to join you.



## Do these ideas go too far?

- Put food coloring in a milk carton so it pours out blue or pink or green
- Take the bags out of two boxes of cereal and switch them so the person thinking he's pouring (for example) Cheerios is pouring Fruit Loops
- Put a helium balloon in a toilet and close the lid.



# Look online for other tricks people have pulled



# Finding the mistakes in a picture

It's not exactly a trick, but creating a picture with mistakes and asking others to find them is another fun activity. On the following page is one with 43 mistakes featuring an illustration made by Norman Rockwell – who also liked a bit of fun!

(From the Norman Rockwell Museum website:  
<https://www.nrm.org/2013/04/fools-paradise/> )







NORMAN ROCKWELL'S  
APRIL-FOOL COVER  
SEE PAGE 4

# Which do you think is most true



A fool and his money are soon elected.

~ Will Rogers (pictured)

A fool and her money are soon courted.

~ Helen Rowland

How did a fool and his money get together in the first place?

~ Steven Wright

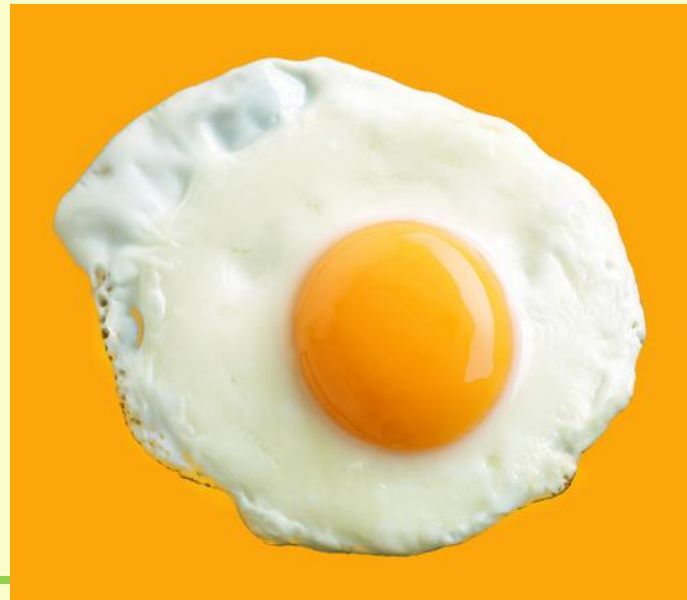
Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke” or “hoax”?

Once upon a time there was a cheery young

\_\_\_\_\_.

Who everyone tried to \_\_\_\_\_  
to eat something besides an egg's

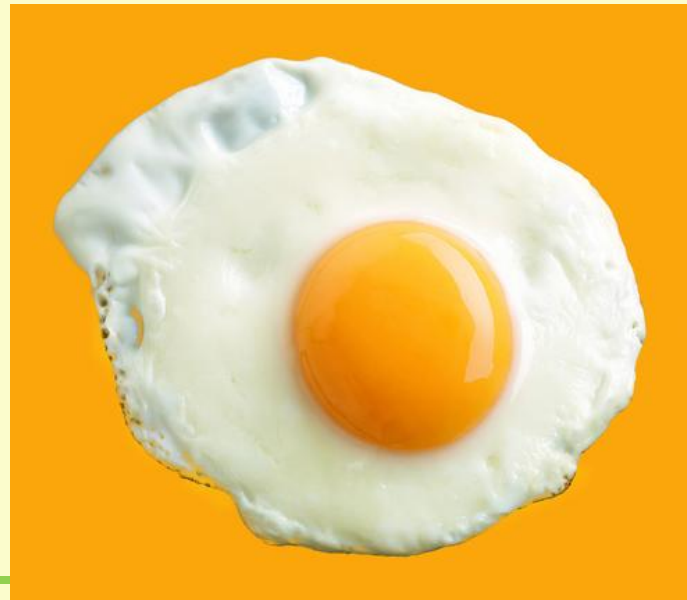
\_\_\_\_\_.



Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke” or “hoax”?

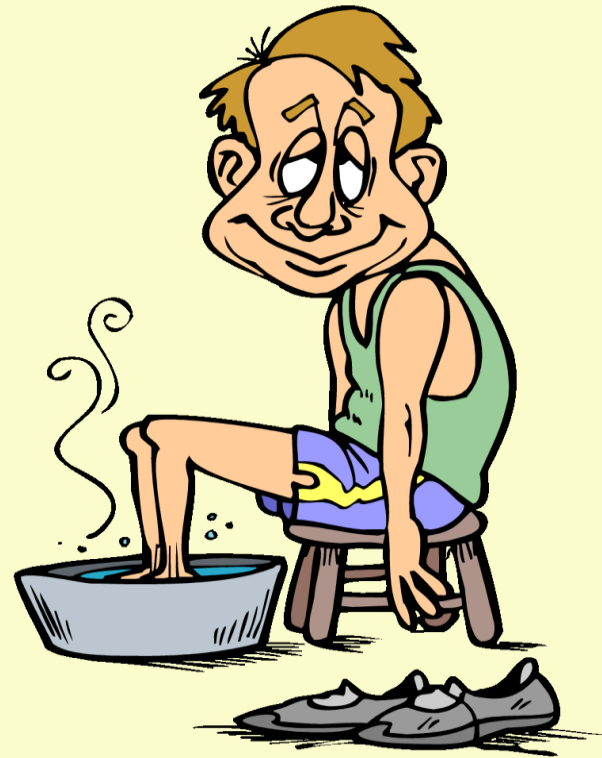
Once upon a time there was a cheery young  
bloke

Whom everyone tried to coax  
to eat something besides an egg's yolk.



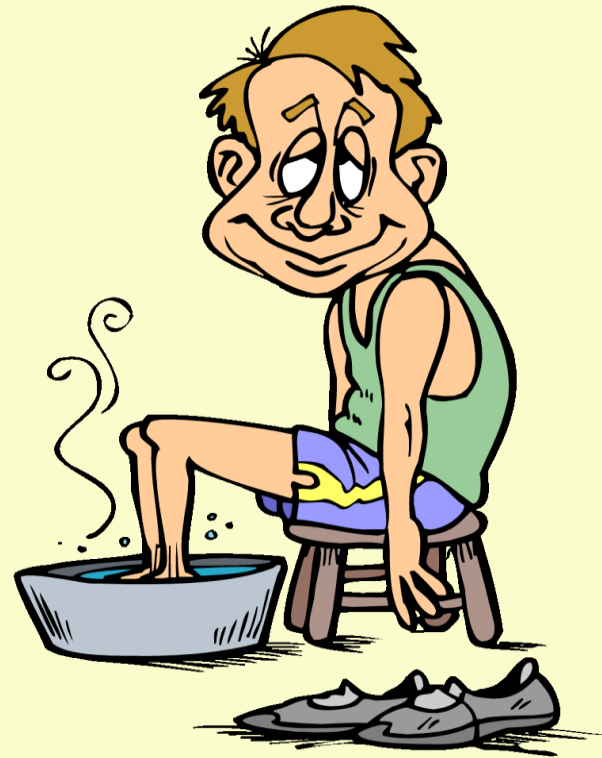
Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke” or “hoax”?

What’s more, he ate  
each under an  
\_\_\_\_\_ tree  
while putting his feet in  
a pan to  
\_\_\_\_\_.



Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke” or “hoax”?

What’s more, he ate  
each under an  
oak tree  
while putting his feet in  
a pan to soak.



Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke,” “joked,” or “hoax”?

He often \_\_\_\_\_, ‘til he nearly \_\_\_\_\_  
because the fire  
he \_\_\_\_\_  
to heat the water  
in the pan always  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
no matter how much  
it was \_\_\_\_\_.



Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke,” “joked,” or “hoax”?

He often choked, ‘til he nearly croaked  
because the fire  
he stoked  
to heat the water  
in the pan always  
smoked,  
no matter how much  
it was poked.





# Can you fill in the word that rhymes with “joke” or “hoax”?

Still, his mother was not \_\_\_\_\_.  
Here's what she \_\_\_\_\_:  
I can only \_\_\_\_\_  
what I know is no \_\_\_\_\_,  
different \_\_\_\_\_  
suit different \_\_\_\_\_.



Can you fill in the word that rhymes with  
“joke” or “hoax”?

Still, his mother was not provoked.  
Here's what she spoke :  
I can only invoke  
what I know is no joke/hoax ,  
different strokes  
suit different folks.



## On more hoax (or not) for the road

In the late 1920s, Dorothy Parker and her Algonquin Round Table friends, including Robert Sherwood and Alexander Woollcott pretended to be the emperor of Abyssinia and his entourage and boarded the navy battleship USS Missouri for a tour. Despite amateurish makeup and costumes, and obviously fake language (It may be where the term “Bunga, Bunga” originated), they were successful in pulling off the hoax.



True \_\_\_\_      False \_\_\_\_

# On more hoax (or not) for the road

Wrong literary group:

The event was in 1910 and involved the English Bloomsbury Group boarding the HMS Dreadnaught. Can you imagine that happening today?

True \_\_\_\_\_ False  X



# An Easter bunny that's not a hoax

This Flemish giant  
rabbit really is as  
big as it looks





And always  
remember:  
*Fun fuels  
the brain*

You can email me at  
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Check out my websites

[www.WiserNow.com](http://www.WiserNow.com)

[www.CreatingDelight.com](http://www.CreatingDelight.com)

