

The very bad Yorkshire joke

AIMS

- To develop listening and reading practice in a light-hearted way.
- To Help develop students' skills with textual cohesion and coherence.

PROCEDURE

Before class: photocopy the jumbled story parts and cut up. You will need one set of cup-up strips per group.

In class:

- a) Introduce the idea of Yorkshire (see below). Is there a similar region in your country? What characteristics do they share?
- b) Preteach key words – whippet, local, pint, landlord, guide-dog, blind.
- c) Explain that you are going to read a joke to the class. Read it a couple of times (if you are very lucky, someone will find it funny!)
- d) Then give out the jumbled sentences (worksheet 1). Let students read through the sentences, then start to put them together in the correct order.
- e) Read the story again as many times as needed. It is better if students DON'T work on the jumbled sentences while you are reading aloud – get them to stop while you are reading then start again immediately afterwards. If a group is getting stuck, bring them together with another group. (In general, the bigger the group, the quicker they will get the whole text together.)
- f) Follow-up:
 - Adding clauses – write the clauses in part 3 up in jumbled order on the board. Students must decide where they can usefully be added to the story.
 - Students rewrite the joke in their own words (i.e. take away the jumbled sentences.)
 - For next class, get students to prepare a joke of their own to tell to the rest of the class in English.

Acknowledgement: the jumbled dictation technique (though not this joke!) is described by Mario Rinvoluceri in "Dictation", © CUP.

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1. Introduction

This story is set in Yorkshire – a large county (region) in the north-east of England., People from Yorkshire are famous in the popular imagination for many things – they speak their mind, they are cunning and clever, they are careful with money, they eat lots. They also make good beer. The “typical” Yorkshireman wears a flat cap, has a whippet (a small, thin, fast dog) and loves nothing better than a pint of good Yorkshire ale with his whippet at his feet.

2. The joke

“Joshua loved to go to his local for a pint. Unfortunately the new landlord did not allow dogs, And Joshua had a whippet – Ben - the best whippet in all Yorkshire. So that night, when Joshua entered the pub. the landlord came over.
“No dogs allowed, Josh, “ he said. “It’s the rules.”
“Aye,” whined Josh, “but it’s only my whippet, Ben. ”
“I know”, said the landlord, “but he’s a dog and he’s not allowed.”
Josh trudged out of the door, dejected. But just outside he met old, blind Abraham.
“Hello Josh,” said Abraham. “Coming for a pint?”
“I can’t,” sighed Josh. “No dogs allowed..”
“Why, that’s nonsense,” cried Abraham. “You leave it to me!”
So they walked into the pub, and the landlord rushed over and said,
“I told you - no dogs allowed!”
“But he’s my new guide-dog,” said Abraham, “you must allow guide-dogs, surely?”
“Guide dog?” scoffed the landlord. Everyone knows that guide-dogs are always Labradors or golden retrievers or such like.”
Abraham cocked his head to one side. “Oh aye,” he said, “so what did they give me?”

3. The extra clauses

(Write these up in jumbled order on the board.)

- like most Yorkshiremen
- (or so Josh thought)
- wiping his hands
- heading for home
- who could recognise people from their smell alone.
- The new landlord says
- Dropped what he was doing,
- In this day and age

Answers (suggested)

“**Like most Yorkshiremen** , Joshua loved to go to his local for a pint. Unfortunately the new landlord did not allow dogs, And Joshua had a whippet – Ben - the best whippet in all Yorkshire (**or so Josh thought**). So that night, when Joshua entered the pub. the landlord came over, **wiping his hands**.

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"No dogs allowed, Josh," he said. "It's the rules."

"Aye," whined Josh, "but it's only my whippet, Ben."

"I know", said the landlord, "but he's a dog and he's not allowed."

Josh trudged out of the door, **heading for home**, dejected. But just outside he met old, blind Abraham.

"Hello Josh," said Abraham, **who could recognise people from their smell alone**.

"Coming for a pint?"

"I can't," sighed Josh. "**The new landlord says** no dogs allowed.."

"Why, that's nonsense," cried Abraham. "You leave it to me!"

So they walked into the pub, and the landlord **dropped what he was doing**, rushed over and said,

"I told you - no dogs allowed!"

"But he's my new guide-dog," said Abraham, "you must allow guide-dogs **in this day and age** surely?"

"Guide dog?" scoffed the landlord. Everyone knows that guide-dogs are always labradors or golden retrievers or such like."

Abraham cocked his head to one side. "Oh aye," he said, "so what did they give me?"

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WORKSHEET 1

[✂ Cut up in advance of the class and hand out in jumbled order.]

Joshua loved to go	to his local for a pint.
Unfortunately the new landlord	did not allow dogs,
And Joshua had a whippet – Ben -	the best whippet in all Yorkshire.
So that night, when Joshua entered the pub.	the landlord came over.
“No dogs allowed, Josh, “ he said.	“It’s the rules.”
“Aye,” whined Josh, “but it’s only my whippet, Ben. ”	“I know”, said the landlord,
“but he’s a dog and he’s not allowed.”	Josh trudged out of the door, dejected.
But just outside	he met old, blind Abraham.
“Hello Josh,” said Abraham	“Coming for a pint?”
“I can’t,” sighed Josh.	“No dogs allowed..”
“Why, that’s nonsense,” cried Abraham.	“You leave it to me!.”
So they walked into the pub,	and the landlord rushed over and said
“I told - no dogs allowed!”	“But he’s my new guide-dog,”
said Abraham,	“you must allow guide-dogs, surely?”
“Guide dog?” scoffed the landlord.	Everyone knows that guide-dogs
are always labradors or golden retrievers	or such like.”
Abraham cocked his head to one side.	“Oh aye,” he said,
“so what did they give me?”	