

M1Maths

M1Maths.com – Explanations and Practice for all school maths topics

Mathematical Jokes and Riddles

It can be hard to find much that's funny about maths.

But here are a few attempts. The later ones are generally better, though they tend to require a higher level of mathematical knowledge.

The list will be updated periodically.

Q. Why was 6 scared?

A. Because 7 8 9.

Q. Why did 7 eat 9?

A. Because it's good to eat three squared meals each day.

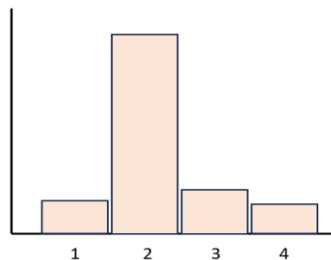
Q. Why was 69 scared of 70?

A. Because, last time they fought, 71.

Q. Why aren't these jokes funny in base 8?

A. Because 7 10 11.

Graph
Usefulness of the different fingers
while driving



There are 3 kinds of people in the world: those that can count and those that can't.

4 out of 3 people have trouble with fractions.

80% of people are good at maths. I'm in the other 10%

God said to Moses come forth and receive the promised land. Instead he came fifth and won a toaster.

Q. What did the acorn say when it grew up?

A. Geometry.



Q. What's green and brown, weighs 400 kg, has 6 legs and 16 balls, and could kill you if it fell on you from a tree?

A. A pool table.

Hens that can count are called mathemachickens.

Q. Do you know what's odd?

A. Every other number.

Q. How can you make 7 even?

A. Remove the s.

Don't argue with 90-degree angles; they're always right.

Q. How many bears can you get in your kitchen?

A. $k \div b \times d$, where k is the volume of your kitchen, b is the volume of a bear and d is your desire to have bears in your kitchen.



3 and 5 went out for tea, but discovered they weren't hungry. They already 8.

Q. Why do maths books worry so much?

A. Because they have so many problems.

Q. Who takes charge of the mathematical equipment in your pencil case?

A. The ruler.

Maths is important. But English is importanter.

Stephen wasn't doing well at maths. So his parents decided to move him to the local Catholic school. Within weeks, he was coming top of the class.

The teacher asked him why he was doing so well now.

He replied, 'When I saw that bloke nailed to the plus sign on the wall, I knew they were serious about their maths.'

If your hand grew 12 inches long, would it be a foot?

Algebra was easy in Roman times: X was always 10.

Sheepdog: "All 50 sheep are in the pen."

Farmer: "But I've only got 48".

Sheepdog: "I know, I rounded them up!"



Q. What did the 0 say to the 8?

A. Nice belt!

How to make time fly in a maths lesson: throw the clock at the teacher!

Q. Why was the circle sad?

A. Because the triangle told it it was pointless.

Unfortunately, even though parallel lines have a lot in common, they will never meet.

-2 asked 5 if it was sure it was a natural number. 'Yes', it replied. 'I'm positive'.

I saw a woman with some graph paper. I think she was plotting something.

Professional farmers use pro-tractors.

The geometry teacher couldn't teach because she twisted her angle.

Revolutions can never get jobs: with 360 degrees, they are totally over-qualified.

There was a mathematician who hated negative numbers. He would stop at nothing to avoid them.

Teacher: A double negative makes a positive, but a double positive never makes a negative.

Student: Yeah, right.

Kings like fractions. Look at Henry the $\frac{1}{8}$.

I left an odd jobs man to do 6 jobs around the house. When I got back, he's only done jobs 1, 3 and 5.

There's a fine line between numerator and denominator.

Never tell anyone they're just average. That's mean.

A woman was pulled up for speeding. She explained that she was hurrying so she could get home before she had an accident.

Q. What is the circumference of an apple divided by its diameter?

A. Apple pi.

Monsters aren't good at maths – unless you Count Dracula.



A mathematician is someone who knows that if three people get onto an empty bus and four get off, then one more person will have to get on to make it empty again.

Irrational numbers are as easy as pi.

Never start a conversation with pi. It'll go on for ever.

How many metres in a kilometre?

How many grams in a kilogram?

How many whales in a killer whale?

You don't need 8 ice cubes in a glass of water; that's just two cubed!



Teacher: What's $2n + 2n$?

Student: No idea. That stuff's all $4n$ to me.

Plants don't do maths because they don't like square roots.

Does geometry have a point?

It planely does. I'd be line if I said otherwise.

People who do coordinate geometry are good at chopping wood. That's because they always have a pair of axes.

Polygon: an escaped parrot.

Polynomial: a hungry parrot.

Maths teachers should tell their students to stand in a line segment.

Trigonometry teachers are always going off on a tangent.

You can simplify any equation by multiplying both sides by zero.

Just like anyone else, surgeons have to follow the order of operations.

German teacher: Do you know ze sqvare root of eighty vun.

German student: Nein.

A trigonometry teacher who spent a lot of time at the beach became a tangent.

I'll do arithmetic and geometry. I'll even do algebra. But graphing is where I draw the line.

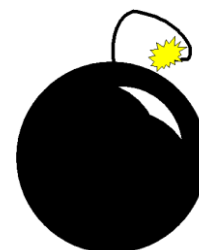
Never mention 288. It's two gross.

Q. How do we know that x/c , y/c and z/c aren't here?

A. They're all over c 's.

Two statistician tried to shoot a rabbit. One missed by 10 cm on the left; the other missed by 10cm on the right. "Well, on average, we got him!", they said.

A statistician was worried about there being a bomb on a plane when he flew. He knew the probability that there would be a bomb on the plane was 1 in 1,000, which was worrying. He calculated that the probability that there would be two bombs on the plane was 1 in 1,000,000, which was ok. So he always took his own bomb.



Q. Have you heard the one about the statistician?

A. Probably.

Q. Why won't atheists use exponents?
A. Because they don't believe in higher powers.

Did you hear about the angle that couldn't get a loan because its parents wouldn't cosine?

An angle went to a party and got wrecked. Now it's a rectangle.

Old maths teachers never die; they just lose most of their functions.

Q. Who made King Arthur's round table?
A. Sir Cumference.

If you want to flirt with your maths teacher, you need to use acute angle.

Q. What did the Italian say when the geometry teacher removed his curse?
A. Hexagon.

Q. What kind of snakes are best at Maths?
A. Adders.

There are two kinds of people in the world: those who can extrapolate from incomplete data . . .

Everyone who confuses correlation with causation ends up dying.

Q. Why did the students know their trigonometry teacher hadn't been to the beach?
A. cos there was no sin of a tan.

The best music for a maths classroom: algorithm and blues.

There is a 50% chance of rain on Saturday and a 50% chance of rain on Sunday.
So there's a 100% chance of rain on the weekend.

Doctor: One out of every two people survive this operation. But don't worry, my last patient died.

Q. Why would you divide sin by tan?
A. Just cos.

Q. What's the best thing about a forest to a mathematician?
A. All the natural logs.

There are 10 kinds of people in the world – those who understand binary and those who don't.

Jesus was giving a sermon to his flock: "Blessed are the $y = x^2 + 2x - 5$."
A passer-by asked one of the disciples, "What's he talking about?"
The disciple replied, "Don't worry, it's just another one of his parabolas."

Mathematicians don't generally lie in the sun. They just divide sine by cosine instead.

Jane: What's the integral of $1/\text{cabin}$ with respect to cabin ?
Simon: A log cabin.
Jane: No, a houseboat; you forgot to add the C.

$\sqrt{-1}$ 2^3 Σ π . It was apple.



Girlfriend shows boyfriend her new dress.
Boyfriend: " $\tan c \div \sin c$ ".
Girlfriend: "Huh? . . . Ah! Thank you!"

Cots: sometimes needed after secs.

A mathematician planted a tree and called it $x^2 + 4 = 0$. But it fell over because it had no real roots.
Q. Which triangles are the coldest?
A. Ice-osceles.

The mother of three is pregnant with her fourth child.
Her daughter says "The new baby is going to be Chinese!"
"What?!"
"Yes. I've read that every fourth child born in the world is Chinese."

Sketching rational functions is a pain in the asymptote.

I failed my calculus exam because I was sitting between two identical twins. It was impossible to differentiate between them.

Q: Why do they never serve alcohol at a maths convention?
A: Because you shouldn't drink and derive.

Two random variables were talking in a bar. They thought they were being discrete, but I heard them chattering continuously.

Infinitely many mathematicians walk into a bar. The first says, "I'll have a pint." The second says, "I'll have half a pint." The third says, "I'll have a quarter of a pint." And so on. The barman pulls two pints and says, "That's your limit."

Have you seen the new movie, Radius of the Lost Arc?

Q. What do you get when a tree feller gets into the swing of things with his axe?

A. A logger rhythm.



You can't polish a surd.

Hey, Algebra, stop asking us to find your x . She's not coming back. And we don't know y .

I've got a friend just like the square root of -1 .

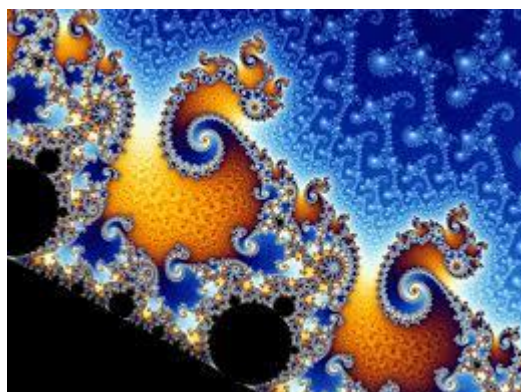
i said to π : You're being completely irrational.

π replied: Get real!

'Differentiation' is another word for 'Disintegration'.

Q. What does the B in Benoit B Mandelbrot stand for?

A. Benoit B Mandelbrot.



Q. Why do mathematicians confuse Halloween and Christmas?

A. Because $31 \text{ Oct} = 25 \text{ Dec}$. ($31 \text{ base } 8 = 25 \text{ base } 10$)

I went to visit him in hospital. I had come in a taxi whose number was 21 and remarked that it was a rather dull number. "Not at all" he replied, "It's a very interesting number. It's the smallest number expressible as the product of 7 and 3 in two different ways."

What do you get when you cross a mosquito with a mountain climber? Nothing: you can't cross a vector with a scalar.

Q. What's big, twisted and lives in the sea?

A. Moebius Dick.

The volume of a pizza with radius z and thickness a is *pizza*.

A mathematician walks into a bar and orders 10 beers. "Wow", the barkeeper replies, "that's an order of magnitude!"

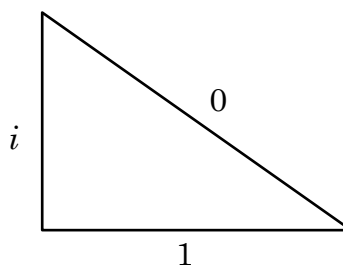
An Indian chief had three squaws who were preparing to give birth, one on a buffalo hide, one on a bear hide and the third on a hippopotamus hide. The first gave him a son, the second a daughter, and the third gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. This proves the well-known theorem that the squaw on the hippopotamus is equal to the sum of the squaws on the other two hides.

Q. Why didn't Newton do group theory?

A: He wasn't Abel.

$\sin x$, $\cos x$, $\tan x$, $\ln x$ and e^x were at a function. e^x wasn't talking to anyone. The host asked him why he didn't integrate. He said, "What's the point?"

An imaginary triangle



I'm in shape. Round is a shape!

And God said to Adam, 'I will put good obedient women in every corner of the earth.' Then he made the earth round and laughed and laughed.

Permutation: a genetic abnormality caused by getting one's hair curled.

My girlfriend is the square root of -100 . She's a perfect 10, but purely imaginary.

Q. What's purple and commutes?

A. An abelian grape.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

The answer is left as an exercise for the reader.



And a few non-mathematical ones to finish off

Archery

Q. What's the difference between a bad archer and a constipated owl?

A. The archer shoots, but can't hit. . . .

DNA: National Dyslexics' Association

Extreme Sports

Bob and Ernie were standing at the top of a cliff. Each had a cardboard box. Bob opened his box, and a budgie flew out and landed on his shoulder. He looked over the cliff, then jumped off. The budgie hung onto Bob and flapped its wings like mad, but could do little to stop Bob falling. Bob landed on the ground and lay there groaning.

Ernie then took a parrot out of his box and put it on his shoulder. Then he jumped off too. The parrot flapped hard and, being bigger than the budgie, managed, about half-way down, to stop the fall. Then Ernie took a gun out his pocket and shot the parrot. He then fell to the ground too.

Bob groaned, 'I don't know what people see in this budgie jumping.'

Ernie replied, 'No, I'm not too keen on the parrot shooting either.'

Cat

Q. What do you call a cat that's just eaten a duck?

A. A duck-filled fatty puss.

Coal Mine

Q. What do you get if you drop a piano down a coal mine?

A. A flat miner.

Beethoven

A few years after he died, some researchers were doing a study of Beethoven and decided that they needed to exhume him. Beethoven had been buried in a tomb. When the researchers entered the tomb, they found Beethoven sitting at a table, going through sheet music and crossing out all the notes.

One of them asked, 'What's he doing?'

The other said, 'He's just decomposing.'

The Gates of Heaven

Alf turned up at the pearly gates. He asked Saint Peter if he could come in. Saint Peter looked at him and said, 'Have you done anything really noble in your life?'

Alf said, 'Yes, I once saw a gang of bikies harassing a young girl. I told them to leave her alone. The biggest one replied "You gonna make us?"'

I said "Yes", and I smacked him round the ear, yanked out his nose ring and kicked over his bike.'

'That was very noble,' said Saint Peter. 'When did this happen?'

'About two minutes ago', said Alf.

Chemistry Joke

Q. Why did the oxide?

A. Because the acid.

Golf

A priest, a doctor and an engineer play a round of golf. They get held up because the group in front of them take so long over each hole. The groundsman comes by and they ask him why the group in front is going so slowly. The groundsman replies 'Oh, that's a sad story. We had a fire in our chemicals shed. They were the fire fighters who came to put it out. But one of the chemicals caused them all to lose their sight. So as a gesture of gratitude, the club gave them all life membership. But of course, they do have a lot of trouble finding their balls.'

The priest says, 'Oh! That is sad. I will pray for them. Miracles can happen, you know.'

The doctor says, 'I have a colleague who specialises in that sort of thing. I will see if there's anything that can be done for them.'

The engineer says, 'Why don't they play at night?'

Posh Casino

An Australian turned up at a posh casino. With him were an Indonesian, a Malaysian, a Vietnamese, a Laotian, a Singaporean and a Cambodian. The security man on the door looked at the assembled crowd and said 'I'm sorry sir, but you can't come in here without a Thai.'

Christmas Song

It was Christmas Eve and Harry was driving his kids home from the shops. He was pulled up by the police and they started writing him a ticket for speeding. Being Christmas and not really knowing any Spanish, the kids started singing 'Police Nabbing Dad'.

Another Christmas Joke

Every year around Christmas, Russia used to send out secret agents to surreptitiously check out other countries' plans for money production in the new year.

This is the origin of the tradition of mint spies.

Koala Tea

Adam and Sylvia broke down driving across a desert. As no one came past, they decided to walk. Almost dead from thirst, they came across a building. It was the Mercy Café. They went in and asked for a drink. 'We've only got tea', said the waiter, 'koala tea'. 'Anything will do', they said.

A few minutes later, the waiter came back and put two mugs on the table. The tea was red with bits of fur, bone and gristle floating in it. 'Oo, what's this?' Sylvia said. 'Koala tea', said the waiter. 'What? Is it just minced koala?' said Sylvia. 'Yes', said the waiter.

The couple looked at it for a while, then Adam asked, 'Could you strain it for us?' The waiter replied 'Sir, the koala tea of Mercy is not strained.'

[You need to know your Shakespeare to appreciate that one.]

Eating

My three favourite things are eating my cats and not using commas.

Into a Bar

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman walk into a bar. The barman says, 'Is this some kind of a joke?'

They're getting bad; I should probably stop now.

If you know of any others, feel free to email them to d.ilsley@gmail.com

Image Acknowledgments

Oak tree: Rawpixel

Bear: Flickr

Sheepdog: Rawpixel

Dracula: AphroditeAI on DeviantArt

Ice: Pexels

Bomb: Rawpixel

Pie: Picasa on Flickr

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