

EXERCISE 1

Answer the following questions.

1. The word "trunk" is a **pun** or play on word in this sentence: "Have you packed your trunk yet?"

a) What are the two meanings of trunk here?

A suitcase

The nose of an elephant

b) This pun or joke is used on

an elephant.



2. A **riddle** is a question with a funny or clever answer. What are the two riddles about elephants in this article?

a) How do you fit four elephants in a mini-minor?

The answer to this is: Two in the front seats and two in the back seats.

b) What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?

The answer to this is: Time to get a new fence.

3. Do you know of any other elephant jokes? Share them with the class if you do.

4. Do you know the answers to these **elephant jokes**?

a) What time is it when ten elephants are chasing you?

Ten after one!

b) What game do elephants like to play most?

Squash

c) How do you stop a charging elephant?

Take away its credit cards.

d) Why are elephants so clever?

They have lots of grey matter (grey matter is an informal word which means 'intelligence' or 'brain').

e) Why did the elephant leave the circus?

Because it got tired of working for peanuts (peanuts is slang for 'small salary').

f) Why don't elephants care what people say about them?

They're thick-skinned (thick-skinned is an adjective which means 'not easily insulted by what people say').

g) What did the cobbler say when a herd of elephants came into his shop?

"Shoe!" (to shoo something is to chase something out by saying "Shoo! Shoo!")



EXERCISE 2

When asked how he found his way back after going home to get his sister's doll, Ernest said,

"I'm not sure. I sort of knew which way to go. And I followed the path. You can certainly tell where a herd of elephants have been; that's for sure!"

Choose the best answer to describe Ernest's character:

- a) boastful
- b) modest
- c) careless

Learning Activity

1. List three other animals that migrate.
 - Most birds migrate, such as geese and sand pipers
 - Many mammals that live on the African savannah migrate, such as wildebeests and buffaloes
 - The longest migration is by whales

Others: caribou, moose, American goldfinch, Arctic tern, dublin, eastern meadowlarks, evening grosbeaks, flickers, flycatchers, garden warblers, green sea turtles, Hudsonian gotwits, hummingbirds, humpback whales, loons, red knots, robins, ruddy turnstones, salmon, short-tailed shearwaters, tanagers, vireos, wanderer swans, wildebeests, zebras
2. Find out if elephants have good memories.
 - Elephants can keep track of the whereabouts of up to 17 family members by sniffing deposits of their urine (NewScientist).
 - The elephant's good memory helps it to find food and water during times of drought and avoid danger when necessary.
 - Well-trained elephants can learn and remember about 30 spoken orders. Once they have learned these, elephants can be used as workers or performers.
 - Elephants are reputed to visit the graves of their loved ones, and they recognise other elephants that they haven't seen in years.

