

LANGUAGE LEVEL: A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE

# APRIL FOOLS' DAY

## ONLY JOKING

El 1 de abril, en los países anglosajones se celebra el *Fools Day*, el día de los tontos, una jornada dedicada a las bromas. Es el equivalente del Día de los Inocentes.

**A**pril Fools' Day<sup>1</sup> is on 1st April. It's the custom in the UK to play a trick<sup>2</sup> or a joke on someone on this day. If the person falls for<sup>3</sup> the joke, then they are called an "April Fool". In fact it's only half a day<sup>4</sup> because April Fools' Day finishes at midday. No more jokes after lunchtime, please!

### THE BEST

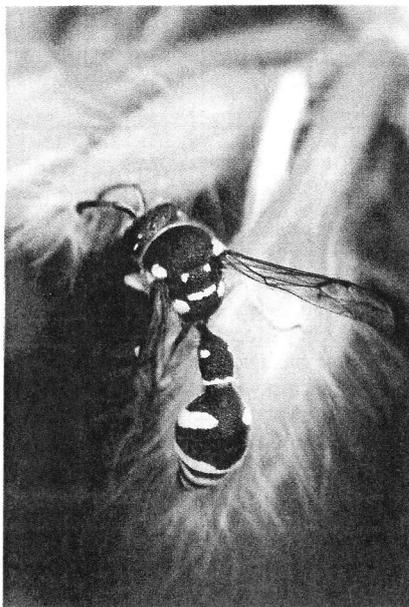
Here are some April Fools' tricks from around the world:

In the 1990s a fast-food chain published an advert<sup>5</sup> in a US magazine offering new "Left-handed<sup>6</sup> Whoppas"<sup>7</sup> for the 32 million left-handed Americans! Thousands of customers ordered the new burger in the restaurants!

A zoo in Japan said that they had a giant penguin that was 165cm tall and weighed<sup>8</sup> 80kg! In fact<sup>9</sup> it was a man dressed up in a penguin suit<sup>10</sup>.

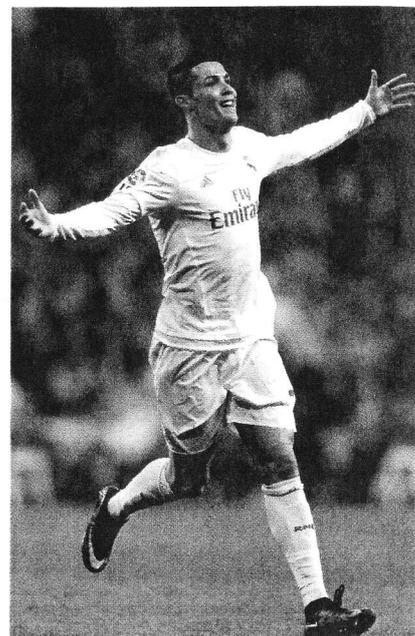
In 1949 a radio presenter in New Zealand told listeners that there were millions of wasps<sup>11</sup> coming to invade. He told viewers to wear their socks over their

trousers and to put honey on their doors. Vast numbers of listeners believed him!



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In 1976 a very famous British astronomer told radio listeners that at 9.47am the Earth was going to experience a feeling<sup>12</sup> of less gravity. He said that Jupiter and Pluto would cross and, if listeners jumped in the air at exactly 9.47am, they would feel the sensation of having no gravity! Hundreds of listeners phoned the radio to say they had jumped<sup>13</sup> and floated<sup>14</sup> in the air!



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A British newspaper announced that Portugal had "sold" the footballer Cristiano Ronaldo to Spain for 160 million.

Why? To try to clear<sup>15</sup> its national debt. It was a joke, of course. ☹

### GLOSSARY

- 1 FOOLS' DAY: Día de los Inocentes (to fool: tomar el pelo)
- 2 TRICK: broma
- 3 TO FALL FOR: creerse
- 4 HALF DAY: medio día, media jornada
- 5 ADVERT: anuncio
- 6 LEFT-HANDED: zurdo
- 7 WHOPPAS: hamburguesa gigante
- 8 TO WEIGH: pesar
- 9 IN FACT: en realidad
- 10 SUIT: traje
- 11 WASP: avispa
- 12 FEELING: sensación
- 13 TO JUMP: saltar
- 14 TO FLOAT: flotar
- 15 TO CLEAR: cancelar