

NewsForge – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of NewsForge – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the newspaper go to the doctor?

It had too many issues!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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[How to use this book](#)

[Puns](#)

[Riddles](#)

[Silly Stuff](#)

[Fun Facts](#)

[Keep laughing](#)

Keep exploring online

Puns

Why did the newspaper go to the doctor?

💡 It had too many issues!

What do you call a reporter who falls asleep on the job?

💡 A snooze anchor!

Why was the headline so good at basketball?

💡 It always made the top of the page!

What did the editor say to the lazy article?

💡 "You need more substance – you're all fluff!"

Why did the journalist bring a ladder?

💡 To get the top story!

What's a newspaper's favorite type of music?

💡 Headline news – it always tops the charts!

Why did the opinion column break up with the news section?

💡 It said, "You never listen to my perspective!"

What did the primary source say to the secondary source?

💡 "I was there first!"

Why do journalists make great gardeners?

💡 They're always digging up dirt!

What did the biased article say at the party?

💡 "I only see things from ONE side!"

Why was the fact-checker always invited to parties?

💡 Because they always verified the guest list!

What do you call a story with no sources?

💡 A tall tale with short credibility!

Why did the anonymous source wear a disguise?

💡 To protect their identity – and their credibility!

What's the difference between a journalist and a detective?

💡 One has a press pass, the other has a badge – both ask too many questions!

Why did the clickbait headline go to therapy?

💡 It had attachment issues – everyone clicked but nobody stayed!

What did the editorial say to the news article?

💡 "You report the facts; I'll tell people what to think about them!"

Why is media literacy like a good immune system?

💡 It helps you fight off misinformation before it spreads!

What did the propaganda poster say to the balanced article?

💡 "Why use two sides when one is so much more persuasive?"

Why did the satirical article feel misunderstood?

💡 People kept taking it literally!

What do you call a newspaper that only prints good news?

💡 Out of business – controversy sells!

Riddles

I answer "who, what, when, where, and why" but I'm not a detective. What am I?

 A news article!

I'm at the top of every story but I'm not a rooftop. What am I?

 A headline!

I tell you what happened without adding my feelings. What am I?

 A fact!

I'm someone's personal view, not something you can prove. What am I?

 An opinion!

I'm the first paragraph that tells you the whole story in miniature. What am I?

 A lead (or lede)!

I'm a person who saw the event with their own eyes. What am I?

 An eyewitness (primary source)!

I lean one direction even when I should stand straight. What am I?

 Bias!

I protect a journalist's right to keep secrets about who told them. What am I?

 Shield law (source protection)!

I look like news but I'm actually trying to sell you something. What am I?

 An advertisement (or advertorial)!

I'm the practice of checking if information is true before publishing. What am I?

 Fact-checking!

I'm shaped like an upside-down triangle and I organize news stories. What am I?

 The inverted pyramid!

I spread faster than truth and I'm harder to stop. What am I?

 Misinformation!

I use emotional language to push you toward a specific viewpoint. What am I?

 Propaganda!

I'm a correction published after an error was printed. What am I?

💡 A retraction (or correction)!

I look like a real news website but I'm completely made up. What am I?

💡 A fake news site!

I'm the principle that says journalists should report without taking sides. What am I?

💡 Objectivity!

I'm a visual that can be manipulated to make data look more dramatic than it is. What am I?

💡 A misleading graph or infographic!

I'm the invisible hand that decides which stories get covered and which don't. What am I?

💡 Gatekeeping (editorial selection)!

I'm when a headline promises something exciting but the article doesn't deliver. What am I?

💡 Clickbait!

I'm the right that protects journalists from government censorship. What am I?

💡 Freedom of the press (First Amendment)!

Silly Stuff

A newspaper hires a goldfish as a reporter. – Its first article is just "blub blub blub" – but the editor says it has great flow!

A headline becomes so large it takes up the entire newspaper. – Readers complain there's no room for the actual story – the headline says, "I AM the story!"

A fact-checker is so thorough they fact-check their own grocery list. – "Are these REALLY the freshest tomatoes? I need a second source!"

An opinion column accidentally gets printed in the news section. – The facts section files a formal complaint: "That's just, like, your opinion, man!"

A school newspaper reporter investigates the mystery of the disappearing cafeteria pizza. – After weeks of investigation, the trail leads to... the reporter's own lunch tray.

A town where everyone only reads headlines and never the articles. – The mayor's new policy "Free Ice Cream for Everyone" *goes great until people read the asterisk*: "if you eat your vegetables first."

A robot is programmed to write perfectly unbiased news. – Its first article: "Something happened somewhere to someone. It may or may not be important."

A clickbait headline becomes sentient and refuses to be accurate. – "You Won't BELIEVE What Happened Next!" – narrator: nothing happened next.

A world where misinformation is visible as a physical fog. – The internet is completely fogged in. "I can't see my search results!" "That's the point."

A student creates a "bias detector" that beeps near biased statements. – It won't stop beeping during the class debate – even when the teacher talks.

A journalist's unnamed source turns out to be their own reflection. – "A source close to the reporter confirms: this article is taking too long to write."

A propaganda poster tries to get a job at a legitimate newspaper. – "I have experience in persuasion!" The editor: "We need information, not manipulation."

A town passes a law requiring all news to include a "trustworthiness rating." – Every article now starts with: "This story is rated 4.2 out of 5 stars based on 47 source reviews."

An algorithm starts writing news articles by combining random trending topics. – Today's top story: "Celebrity Cat Discovers New Planet While Making Sourdough."

A satire article is so realistic that people think it's real news. – The satirist: "I was TRYING to be ridiculous!" Reality: "Sorry, I got there first."

Fun Facts

The word "journalism" comes from the French word "jour," which means... – Day! Journalism literally means "daily reporting" – keeping a record of each day's events.

The first printed newspaper appeared in... – Germany in 1605! The "Relation" was published weekly in Strasbourg.

Reporters use "5 Ws and an H" to make sure they cover everything. – Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How – miss one and your story has a hole!

The "inverted pyramid" style puts the most important info first because... – In the telegraph era, connections could cut out mid-transmission – so journalists sent the key facts first!

The term "yellow journalism" comes from a cartoon character. – The "Yellow Kid" comic strip sparked a circulation war between two New York newspapers in the 1890s, leading to sensationalized headlines.

The Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor, is named after... – Joseph Pulitzer, who was actually one of the "yellow journalism" publishers! He left money to Columbia University to establish the prize.

A single false story can reach more people than a correction because... – Studies show misinformation spreads about 6 times faster than accurate corrections on social media.

The "editorial cartoon" has been used to criticize governments since... – The 1700s! Benjamin Franklin drew one of America's first political cartoons: "Join, or Die" (a segmented snake).

Confirmation bias means we tend to... – Seek out and believe information that already matches what we think – making us less likely to notice when we're wrong!

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects freedom of the press because... – The founders believed an informed public is essential for democracy – they'd seen what happened when governments controlled all the news.

"Deepfake" technology can now create videos of people saying things they never said. – AI can generate realistic fake videos in minutes – which is why video evidence now needs verification just like text claims.

The average person encounters about 10,000 media messages per day. – That includes ads, social media posts, news, signs, and more – media literacy helps you process this flood critically.

"Astroturfing" is when fake grassroots movements are created to influence public opinion. – The name is a play on "AstroTurf" (fake grass) – it looks like genuine public support but is actually manufactured.

Professional journalists follow a code of ethics that includes... – Seeking truth, minimizing harm, acting independently, and being accountable – these four principles guide responsible reporting.

The "filter bubble" effect means that algorithms show you... – Content similar to what you've already clicked on – so you might never see perspectives different from your own unless you actively seek them out.

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from NewsForge. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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