

31 A LITTLE LEVITY

Knock-Knock. Who's There?

Special Accents: —

Difficulty
Scale

Host: We all know that everyone likes a good joke. In this edition of A Little Levity we are going to introduce you, dear listeners, to the "knock-knock" joke—one of the most common types of jokes in the English speaking world.

Knock-knock jokes are always the same: the person telling the joke pretends they are knocking on a door by saying, "knock-knock." The other person then has to answer, "Who's there?" The answer is usually a pun, or play on words, so for a person who wants to perfect their English a knock-knock joke can be not only funny, but educational as well! Here goes!

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Doris. B. Doris who? A. Doris locked. That's why I had to knock. [The door is locked...]

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Hutch. B. **Hutch you.**²⁸² A. Gesundheit!

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Howard. B. Howard who? A. Howard you like to be outside for a change. [How would you like to...]

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Norma Lee. B. Norma Lee who? A. Norma Lee I ring the bell.

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Minnie. B. Minnie? A. Minnie people out here are freezing. Open the door.

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Stopwatch. B. Stopwatch who? A. Stopwatch you doing and open the door. [Stop what you are doing...]

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Winner. B. Winner who? A. Winner you going to open the door?

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Duzzin Algo. B. Duzzin Algo who? A. Yes, an owl goes whooo. [Does an owl go whooo?]

A. And this is the last one. We promise.

A. Knock Knock! B. Who's there? A. Vera. B. Vera who? A. Vera few people think knock-knock jokes are funny. [Very few people...]

Flash Cards

- Knock knock. Who's there? Stop watch. Stop watch who? Stop what you're doing and open the door.
- Knock knock. Who's there? Dozen Algo. Dozen Algo who? Yes, an owl goes whooo.

Joke Sites

- ahajokes.com
- cleanfunnyjoke.com
- cleanjoke.com
- gcfl.net (can sign up to receive one joke per day)

Note: Stateside Sounds does not endorse any of these sites.

32 SMALL TALK

Kiawah for Me. Vail for You.

Special Accents: New York (Lenny)

Difficulty
Scale

Host: While riding the LIRR²⁸³ on their way home, two business colleagues **pass the time**²⁸⁴ by discussing their vacation plans for the upcoming holiday. While one prefers to spend his free time in the mountains, the other prefers the beach.

Marco: Oh man, what a long day! I am so ready for a vacation.

Lenny: I know what you mean. Between all the work, the long hours, and this **miserable**²⁸⁵ weather, I can't stop thinking about warmer temperatures and sandy beaches. This holiday can't come fast enough.

Marco: Absolutely. So you guys are **headed**²⁸⁶ south, huh?

Lenny: Yep.

Marco: Huh. We're hittin' the **slopes**.²⁸⁷ My wife's family has a place in **Vail**²⁸⁸ and I can't imagine anywhere I'd rather be. There is nothing like that clean mountain air and **fresh powder**²⁸⁹ to take your **mind off**²⁹⁰ all the stress of work, you know?

Lenny: Hmm....That does sound great, but I have to say, I prefer the beach over the snow any day. I get so sick of these cold New York winters that I practically run to **Kiawah**²⁹¹ when I have some free time. We've had a **time share**²⁹² on the eastern end for about ten years now and there is nothing I enjoy more than a walk on the beach right at **dawn**.²⁹³

Marco: Oh, I've heard of Kiawah. One of my friends grew up in **Charleston**²⁹⁴ and he still goes back a few times a year to golf. He's been trying to get me to go down with him, but if I have the time, I just want to ski. Besides, my wife loves the shopping on **Bridge Street**²⁹⁵ and the Alpine Gardens, and the kids love hiking and biking in the valley when the weather is warm. It's paradise.

Lenny: Nice. Well, yeah, Kiawah has more than just golf and beaches too. Night Heron Park has great trails and kayaking, and there are some great restaurants. It's another world down there. I've been **bustin' my tail**²⁹⁶ all these years for one reason and one reason only: we're going to retire down there.

²⁸² This is the sound you make when you sneeze. When someone sneezes it is polite to say, "Bless you!" or "Gesundheit," which means "health" in German.

²⁸³ *abbrev.* LIRR = Long Island Railroad, a popular commuter train for people living on Long Island, NY and working in New York City.

²⁸⁴ *p.* pass the time = spend time while waiting

²⁸⁵ *adj.* miserable = bad; if a person is miserable, the person is not happy

²⁸⁶ *p.* to be headed = to be going

²⁸⁷ *v.* hittin' the slopes (to hit the slopes; slang) = to go snow skiing

²⁸⁸ *pr.n.* Vail = a popular tourist destination in Colorado, known for its world famous skiing and people watching

²⁸⁹ *n.* powder = soft snow; snow that has just fallen

²⁹⁰ *p.* take your mind off = an expression that means doing something so you do not think of something negative

²⁹¹ *pr.n.* Kiawah = Kiawah Island, a popular coastal vacation destination in South Carolina

²⁹² *n.* timeshare = a vacation property (like a hotel/resort) where you buy one week of time for life

²⁹³ *n.* dawn = when the sun comes up in the morning

²⁹⁴ *pr.n.* Charleston = South Carolina's most populated city; located at the midpoint of the state's coastline it is a city rich in southern history and culture

²⁹⁵ *pr.n.* Bridge Street = a street in Vail known for its shopping

²⁹⁶ *p.* bustin' my tail (slang) = working as hard as I can (bustin' = busting)

Marco: Good stuff. We've haven't decided where we're going to retire, but it's only nine and a half years away...not that we're counting or anything.

Lenny: Hey, I'm counting! Eight years, 7 months, and...about... 14 days.

3 3 Listening Comprehension

Q1. What is Marco going to do for vacation?

A1. Marco and his family are going to go to Vail, Colorado to ski.

Q2. What do Marco's children love to do in Vail when the weather is warm?

A2. Marco's children love to go hiking and biking when the weather is warm.

Q3. In contrast, where is Lenny going for the holiday? What does he enjoy most there?

A3. Lenny is going to Kiawah Island, where he enjoys nothing more than walking on the beach right at dawn.

Q4. What are Lenny and Marco looking forward to even more than vacation?

A4. Both Lenny and Marco are looking forward to retirement even more than vacation.

3 4 Useful Phrases

1. What a long day!
2. I know what you mean.
3. That does sound great.
4. Good stuff.

3 5 Flash Cards

1. Two business colleagues *pass the time* by discussing their vacations.
2. We are *hittin' the slopes*.
3. There is nothing like skiing to *take your mind off* the stress of work.
4. I have been *bustin' my tail* all these years for one reason.