

"One.....two..... at the stroke of "Three" we rushed forward into the room along with the other constables. For a few minutes there was silence. I heard a click and the room was flooded with light. There was nothing seen out of order. Even my vase still stood on the table in the corner!!

Suddenly the Inspector glared at the radio close by the window. The dial was still lit up. Before he could speak, the voice of the announcer filled the room. He said "This is All-India Radio; you have just been listening to first Act of the Drama, Murder at Midnight". Act two will be broadcast at this same time next week on Monday!!

Silly girl, Mary had gone out to her club, without switching off the radio.

<https://doi.org/10.29321/MAJ.10.A04423>

WIT OR TIT BIT

By

S. RANGANATHAN

Wit or humour can be defined as an expression of man or woman, in the simplest form possible which produces the highest state of excitement and a general pleasure. It goes also by the name of TIT BIT. Tit has practically no meaning by itself but when combined with BIT it assumes a unique prominence. Wit without sense is like a razor without a handle. Brevity is the soul of wit. It is generally believed that the human characteristics are governed by certain humours in the body. A man may be soft or angry, jovial or serious, happy or gloomy. These traits of character are attributed to the predominance of the particular kind of humour responsible for it. If the humour responsible for a particular humour is dominant over the other humours in the body, he or she is said to be a wit. Witticisms are of different kinds. Some may produce peals of laughter, some others merely a laugh, still others only a smile and lastly there are certain kinds of humour which provoke anger.

Simple humour is one which, as the name implies, is as simple as itself. Spontaneous humour is the immediate outcome of the human expression without any thought or design. Laboured humour is exactly the opposite of this.

Sarcastic or caustic wit is the most dangerous type. It is attacking a man or woman by taking advantage of either his or her character or other mannerisms. Ironical humour is not so dangerous as the former. Pungent humour is also not desirable under any circumstances. Humour arises also out of sheer ignorance and absent mindedness. Due to ignorance and absent mindedness people say something which produces laughter. Punning on words: two words of different spelling but same pronunciation are employed to bring about a funny situation in the

worst of circumstances. This is common among literary people as it requires a high intelligence. The dramas of Shakespeare provide numerous examples of this type of humour. Exaggeration and under statements sometimes excite laughter.

High class humour : This is the highest type of humour which does not produce laughter instantaneously. A little bit of thought has to be bestowed on it before getting at the meaning. Such humour cannot be enjoyed by all. **Unexpected humour:-** In following the trend of an event or narration we may expect something at the end. But the ending may have a different turn, quite contrary to our expectations.

Anything that does not fall into any of the categories just talked of so far, comes in the group "KADIR WIT". This is the lowest type of humour that produces not even a smile. It sometimes produces anger.

Examples of these types of humour are given below. Will the readers please put these tit bits in the proper group? Never mind if you are a bit wrong, for bittism is always pardonable.

1. She :- If you tell a man anything, it will go in by one ear and out of the other.
He :- If you tell a woman anything, it will go in by both the ears and out of her mouth.
2. (A weak man is bowling in a cricket match).
Spectator :- Who is he, that bowler ?
Student :- He is the champion of the college team !
3. Naturalist:- What is the length of rope required to reach the moon ?
Philosopher : As long as it is necessary.
4. One - Who is better, physician or surgeon ?
The other - The former, because in his case death is immediate.
5. Lecturer :- Can you tell me the symptoms of Ranikhet disease ?
Student :- The most characteristic symptom is that the combs and wattles disappear.
6. Tit :- The girl who joined this college last week left for the medical college abruptly.
Bit :- Probably she has seen you first in this college.
7. Gopu is the last boy in the class. He enters the class late. The teacher abruptly remarked, " Here comes the gem (germ) of the class.
8. Judge - Holding a staff said, " The man at the end of the rod is a rogue."
Accused :- Which end, my Lord ?

9. A young lad rushed to the train which was about to start and said, "Is the Noah's Ark full?"
A voice :- We are all here except the ass. Please come in.
10. Professor :- What is pasteurisation?
Pupil :- It is the process of converting waste lands into pastures for the grazing of dairy animals.
11. Mathematician An express train is running at the rate 40 miles per hour on a level bridge 320 yards long. What is the name of the driver's wife?
Student :- Mrs. Jones.
Math :- How do you know?
Student :- I know the driver?
12. The house-owner saw the milkman adding water to the milk, called him and said, "Why do you add this water? If you had asked me, I would have given you hot water. It is more healthy".
13. Teacher :- Is rinderpest a virus or bacterial disease?
Student :- It is a bacterio-virus disease.
14. Manager :- What is the matter? You are always coming to the office one hour late.
Clerk :- Sir, my coming to the office late by one hour is compensated by going an hour earlier.
15. Gopu :- Where is the caterpillar which I had placed here just now?
Mohan :- I don't know, probably it has flown away.
16. A learned lecturer entered the biological laboratory, assembled the students near the dais and, "Today, you have to dissect out the microscope and examine it under the seed."
17. X : Will you please open the door, my dear?
Y : I am sleeping.
18. Once a Scotchman, an Irishman and an Englishman had to pass through a desert. They had a bottle of water with them. According to the arrangement, the Englishman has to take the first third, the Irishman the middle third, and the Scotch the last third. After sometime the Scotchman became thirsty and drank up the whole water. The others got angry and asked him, "Why have you drunk the whole lot?".
He coolly remarked, "I am entitled to the last third. In order to get at it, I swallowed the first two-thirds."

19. Fun :- Of all the games in cards, Bridge is the most intelligent game.
 Frolic :- Then, I am sure, you can't play that.
20. Kumar :- I told Ramu that "Great Expectations" is a very fine picture, but he does not seem to entertain a good opinion.
 Chinu :- What does the ass know about the camphor smell?
21. Sukumar :- Gopal! I am in love with Susil.
 Gopal :- Your dhall won't boil there, she is already married.
22. Student : Sir, what is the name of this caterpillar?
 Lecturer :- Is it a caterpillar or a centipede?
23. Bob :- Mr.....the weather is cold, I can't stir out.
 Oob :- You strike a Kadhir wit, it will become dry.
24. X : What are you munching, man?
 Y : Betels.
 X : Beetles or Bugs?
25. A gentleman in tweeds driving a car having lost his way, enquires a seargent at the cross roads.
 Seargeant :- You go this way Sir - You will cut a road running at right angles to this. Take the road leading to the west. You meet a constable near handpost.....
 Gentleman :- Thanks.
26. Mr. Librarian! Have you got "Life" ?
 It is out, Sir.

MY MAIDEN FLIGHT

By

G. THULASIDAS, Final, B. sc., (Ag.) Class

I was sitting up into the night; I saw the old day expire and the new one being born. There was no one else awake in the whole hostel - not one light burning in a hundred and thirty-nine other rooms.

Sleep - elusive, fickle sleep - would not come. I lay in bed, restlessly tossing to and fro. At last, realising that sleep like a fickle maiden comes only when unsought, I rose from my bed and stood on the verandah.

All the myriads of stars were shining in the sky as brightly as they did in the beginning of the world, and they shall continue to twinkle to the end of time. So beautiful and so majestic in their splendour!

A soft, cold breeze sprung up. It gently caressed my cheeks; how delicious it was, and fragrant with the scent of jasmynes in front of the verandah.