

April Fools' Day



Every year, April Fools' Day is celebrated in many countries. On this day, people play pranks on their friends and family. Newspapers and magazines also print fake articles and try to fool their readers. Companies often make special announcements on April Fools' Day as a prank on their customers.

There have been many famous April Fools' Day hoaxes. In 1989, for example, many drivers noticed a UFO floating above a field near London. Many of the drivers phoned the police and reported that aliens were visiting Earth. The police came to **investigate** the UFO as it landed in the field. As one police officer walked toward the UFO, a small door opened and a man walked out. The man was not an alien but instead it was Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Records, a big company. The UFO was actually a hot air balloon. **It** was painted to resemble a UFO.

On April 1st, 1975, "This Day Tonight", an Australian television news program reported that the country would change how it counted time. Instead of 60 minutes in one hour, the Australian government would make 100 minutes in one hour. There were other changes too. One day would only be 20 hours long and there would be 100 seconds in one minute. Many people believed the hoax and got angry. They phoned the television station to complain.

In 1997, there was a famous prank about the Internet. According to a famous e-mail, **it** was going to be cleaned from March 31st to April 2nd. The e-mail said that powerful Japanese computers would clean out old e-mail and websites. Everyone was warned not to use the Internet during the cleaning time. Although most people understood that the e-mail was simply an April Fools' joke, there were many people who believed it and disconnected their computers during that day.



1. According to the article, what do many people do on April Fools' Day?
 - a) they eat dinner with their friends and family
 - b) they play practical jokes on their friends and family
 - c) they celebrate by reading newspapers and magazines
 - d) they write fake articles and try to fool their friends and family

2. The word "investigate" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
 - a) check
 - b) arrest
 - c) create
 - d) report

3. According to the article, when did Richard Branson play an April Fools' Day hoax?
 - a) in 1975
 - b) in 1997
 - c) in 1989
 - d) in 1998

4. The word "it" in paragraph 2 refers to:
 - a) a UFO
 - b) an alien
 - c) a small door
 - d) a hot air balloon

5. According to the article, why did people think that Richard Branson's balloon was a UFO?
 - a) because the police came to investigate
 - b) because it came from space and flew to Earth
 - c) because the balloon was painted to look similar to a UFO
 - d) because a man walked out who looked like Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Records

6. Paragraph 3 is about:
 - a) the history of "This Day Tonight"
 - b) how people complain about Australian news
 - c) a hoax played by an Australian television program
 - d) how the Australian government changed how it counted time

7. The word "it" in paragraph 4 refers to:
 - a) an e-mail
 - b) the Internet
 - c) April Fools' Day
 - d) March 31st to April 2nd

8. What is the subject of the passage?
 - a) Pranks on the Internet
 - b) Famous April Fools' hoaxes
 - c) April Fools' Day around the world
 - d) The History of April Fools' Day

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (b)