

LAUGH AT THESE JOKES OR WE'LL SHOOT THE RECEPTIONIST

Ladies and germs, here are the seventy-five funniest jokes of all time, and we are brave enough to list them in order

It was serious work. We reviewed in excess of 23,540 jokes, one-liners, witty remarks, stand-up lines and bons mots. We read towers of books, surfed the Internet, asked our brokers and listened to hours of performances on audio- and videotape. And we polled dozens of humorists and comedians. The result is what you see here. The Top Seventy-five of All Time.

Among those who were helpful in assembling these jokes were Ross Abrams, Bill Braudis, David Brenner, Jim Brogan, Dick Cavett, Larry David, Al Franken, Larry Gelbart, Jonathan Groff, Richard Jeni, Robert Klein, Chris Kelly, Brian Kiley, Billy Kimball, Jonathan Katz, Richard Lewis, Jackie Martling, William Novak, Gene Perret, Bob Shaw, Jonathan Solomon and Mike Sweeney

61 The cheapest thing my mother ever bought was the peanut butter with the jelly inside. Peanut butter with the jelly in the same jar—how low can you go? That's like buying a shoe with a sock sewn inside. (Chris Rock)

62 Waiters and waitresses are becoming nicer and much more caring. I used to pay my check, they'd say, "Thank you." That graduated into "Have a nice day." That's now escalated into "You take care of yourself, now." The other day, I paid my check and the waiter said, "Don't put off that mammogram." (Rita Rudner)

63 A New York man bought a car at a police auction, then went home and found a dead body handcuffed in the trunk. Actually, it isn't that bad. This week he can use the car-pool lane. (Jay Leno)

64 What they put women through today when they're having a baby! They don't want to medicate them, as compared to previous generations. When my mom had me, she had so much medication, she didn't wake up till I was 7. (Dennis Wolfberg)

66 Sincerity is everything. If you can fake that, you've got it made. (George Burns)

67 I was so ugly when I was born, the doctor slapped my mother. (Henny Youngman)

65 Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not commit adultery. Don't eat pork? I'm sorry, what was that last one? Don't eat pork? God has spoken. Is that the word of God, or is that pigs trying to outsmart everybody? (Jon Stewart)

69 Two campers are walking through the woods when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing about fifty feet in front of them. The bear sees the campers and begins to head toward them. The first guy drops his backpack, digs out a pair of sneakers and frantically begins to put them on. The second guy says, "What are you doing? Sneakers won't help you outrun that bear." "I don't need to outrun the bear," the first guy says. "I just need to outrun you."

72 A completely drunken drunk goes into a bar and drunkenly tosses a single dart at a dartboard and hits a bull's-eye. The bar owner tells him that anyone who hits a bull's-eye gets a free gift and presents the man with a medium-size pet turtle. Two weeks later, the same drunk goes into the same bar and once again scores a bull's-eye with one dart. The bartender presents the man with another free gift—a wool sweater. The drunk says he doesn't want a sweater. He wants the same gift he got two weeks earlier. The bartender says, "OK, buddy, but that was two weeks ago, and, frankly, I don't remember what gift we were giving away two weeks ago." The drunk says, "Well, I remember. It was roast beef on a hard roll."

75 Celine Dion walks into this bar. The bartender turns to her and says, "Howdy, miss, why the long face?"

74 Chicken goes to bed with an egg. They screw. Afterward chicken lights a cigarette, says to egg, "Well, I guess that settles that."

73 Two guys are walking down the street when a mugger approaches them and demands their money. They both grudgingly pull out their wallets and begin taking out their cash. Just then, one guy turns to the other and hands him a bill. "Here's that \$20 I owe you," he says.

71 I was sitting next to a young couple with a baby on the plane and I was making the baby laugh the entire flight. Do you know what babies love? Ethnic jokes. (Sarah Silverman)

70 My grandfather is hard-of-hearing. He needs to read lips. I don't mind him reading lips, but he uses one of those yellow highlighters. (Brian Kiley)

43 What a hotel! The towels were so fluffy I could hardly close my suitcase. (Henny Youngman)

42 When I was a little kid, we had a quicksand box. I was an only child...eventually. (Steven Wright)

41 This man was a bigot and a bed wetter. He used to go to Ku Klux Klan meetings wearing a rubber sheet. (Woody Allen)

38 My great-grandfather was an old Indian fighter. My great-grandmother was an old Indian.

37 I had this happen to me twice within a week and a half. I was sitting on a subway, sitting on a newspaper, and a man says to me, "Excuse me, are you reading that paper?" The first time it happened, I didn't know what to say. What are you going to say? You're newsighted? The next time, I was ready. I said yes, stood up, turned the page and sat down. (David Brenner)

36 The emotional, psychological- and mental-evaluation test-score results on the Unabomber just came back. Monday he starts at the post office. (David Brenner)

35 Two old men are chatting. One man says, "My friend, you must try this memory pill I'm taking. I remember everything. It's amazing, this pill." The other man says, "Sounds wonderful. What is the name of the pill?" The first man says, "Euf! The name of the pill.... Let's see.... Hmmm, what is the name of the flower...with the thorns? It's red.... You give it on Valentine's Day?" The other man says, "A rose?" The first man says, "Yes, that's right!" Then, calling for his wife, he says, "Rose, what is the name of that pill?"

32 My ex-wife claimed she was violated. Knowing my ex-wife, it wasn't a moving violation. (Woody Allen)

33 An old fella's buddies send him a hooker. When the hooker appears at the old fella's door, she says, "I'm here to give you super sex." The old man says, "I'll have the soup."

31 Two old Jewish guys find out Hitler is going to be on a street corner in Berlin at noon on Tuesday. They assemble an arsenal of weapons, they stake out a perch, and they wait. They are going to kill Hitler! At 11:55 a.m., they are ready! Fingers on their triggers, they wait. They're ready. Twelve noon arrives. No Hitler. But they're ready! Twelve-0-five arrives. Still no Hitler. Twelve-ten comes. Still no Hitler. Twelve-twenty. Still no Hitler. And one of the guys turns to the other and says, "Gee, I hope he's all right."

30 Two old Jewish men are strolling down the street one day when they happen to walk by a Catholic church. They see a big sign posted that says, CONVERT TO CATHOLICISM AND GET \$10. One of the men stops walking and stares at the sign. His friend turns to him and says, "Murray, what's going on?" "Abe," replies Murray, "I'm thinking of doing it." Abe says, "What, are you crazy?" Murray thinks for a minute and says, "Abe, I'm going to do it." With that, Murray strides purposefully into the church and comes out twenty minutes later with his head bowed. "So," asks Abe, "did you get your \$10?" Murray looks up at him and says, "Is that all you people think about?"

29 The queen of England is appearing on a game show with several other celebrities. Each celebrity contestant is asked to ascertain the identity of an object. The celebrity who guesses the object after the fewest clues wins. First the home audience is told that the object in question is a horse's cock. Michael Caine goes first and asks, "Is it bigger than a bread box?" He is assured that the object is indeed bigger than a bread box. John Major goes second and asks, "Is it edible?" He is assured that the object is indeed edible. The queen's turn comes next, and she says, "Well, let's see. It's bigger than a bread box, and it's edible. Hmmm, could it by chance be a horse's cock?"

28 Guy finds a snail on his front stoop. He picks it up and throws it across the street. One year later, he hears a knock at his door. The man goes to the door, opens the door, looks down, and there he sees the snail back on his front stoop. And the snail looks up at the guy and says, "What the hell was that all about?"

27 A drunk is staggering down the street with one foot in the gutter and one foot on the curb. A cop stops him and says, "You're drunk!" The drunk replies, "Thank God! I thought I was crippled."

40 Man goes to the confessional and says, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned." "What is your sin, my child?" the priest replies. "Well," the man starts, "I used some horrible language this week, and I feel absolutely terrible." "When did you use this awful language?" asks the priest. "I was golfing and hit an incredible drive that looked like it was going to go over 250 yards, but it struck a phone line that was hanging over the fairway and fell straight down to the ground after going only about a hundred yards." "Is that when you swore?" "No, Father," says the man. "After that a squirrel ran out of the bushes and grabbed my ball in his mouth and began to run away." "Is that when you swore?" asks the father again. "Well, no," says the man. "You see, as the squirrel was running, an eagle came down out of the sky, grabbed the squirrel in its talons and began to fly away!" "Is that when you swore?" asks the amazed priest. "No, not yet," the man replies. "As the eagle carried the squirrel away in its claws, it flew toward the green. As it passed over a bit of forest near the green, the squirrel dropped my ball." "Did you swear then?" asks the now impatient priest. "No, because as the ball fell, it struck a tree, bounced through some bushes, careened off a big rock and rolled through a sand trap onto the green and stopped within six inches of the hole." The priest sighs, "Now I see. You missed the fucking putt, didn't you?"

26 A man goes to the doctor. The doctor says, "I have bad news, and I have worse news. The bad news is you have Alzheimer's. The worse news is you have inoperable cancer and you'll be dead in two months." The man says, "Well, at least I don't have Alzheimer's!"

20 A guy meets a hooker in a bar. She says, "It's your lucky night. I've got a special game for you. I'll do absolutely anything you want for \$500, as long as you can say it in three words." The guy replies, "Hey, why not?" He pulls his wallet out of his pocket and one at a time lays three \$100 bills on the bar and says slowly, "Paint my house."

13 Take my wife...please! (Henny Youngman)

11 A lawyer dies and goes to Heaven. "There must be some mistake," the lawyer argues. "I'm too young to die. I'm only 55." "Fifty-five?" says Saint Peter. "No, according to our calculations, you're 82." "How do you get that?" the lawyer asks. Answers Saint Peter, "We added up your time sheets."

10 Believing in God is a lot like wearing clean underwear. You never know when you're going to be in an accident, but you'd better be prepared just in case. (Eddie Ifft)

3 My wife and I took out life-insurance policies on one another—so now it's just a waiting game. (Bill Dwyer)

1 I went to my doctor and told him, "My penis is burning." He said, "That means somebody is talking about it." (Garry Shandling)

21 When I was growing up, we had a petting zoo, and, well, we had two sections. We had a petting zoo, and then we had a heavy-petting zoo. For people who really liked the animals a lot. (Ellen DeGeneres)

14 This guy goes to a psychiatrist and says, "Doc, my brother's crazy; he thinks he's a chicken." The doctor says, "Why don't you turn him in?" The guy says, "We would, but we need the eggs."

12 I bought a box of animal crackers, and it said on it, "Do not eat if seal is broken." So I opened up the box, and sure enough... (Brian Kiley)

8 Skeleton walks into a bar and says, "Give me a beer and a mop."

4 I believe Dr. Kevorkian is onto something. I think he's great. Because suicide is our way of saying to God, "You can't fire me. I quit." (Bill Maher)

2 My grandfather always said, "Don't watch your money; watch your health." So one day while I was watching my health, someone stole all my money. It was my grandfather. (Jackie Mason)

24 A car hits a Jewish man. The paramedic rushes over and says, "Are you comfortable?" The guy says, "I make a good living." (Henny Youngman)

22 A Jewish grandmother is watching her grandchild playing on the beach when a huge wave comes and takes him out to sea. She pleads, "Please, God, save my only grandson! Bring him back." And a big wave comes and washes the boy back onto the beach, good as new. She looks up to Heaven and says, "He had a hat!" (Myron Cohen)

19 Three guys stranded on a desert island find a magic lantern containing a genie, who grants them each one wish. The first guy wishes he were off the island and back home. The second guy wishes the same. The third guy says, "I'm lonely. I wish my friends were back here."

17 Sid and Irv are business partners. They make a deal that whichever one dies first will contact the living one from the afterlife. So Irv dies. Sid doesn't hear from him for about a year; figures there is no afterlife. Then one day he gets a call. It's Irv. "So there is an afterlife! What's it like?" Sid asks. "Well, I sleep very late. I get up, have a big breakfast. Then I have sex, lots of sex. Then I go back to sleep. But I get up for lunch, have a big lunch. Have some more sex. Take a nap. Huge dinner. More sex. Go to sleep, and wake up the next day."

16 I've been getting into astronomy, so I installed a skylight. The people who live above me are furious. (Steven Wright)

7 A man is driving up a steep, narrow mountain road. A woman is driving down the same road. As they pass each other, the woman leans out the window and yells, "Pig!" The man immediately leans out his window and replies, "Bitch!" They each continue on their way, and as the man rounds the next corner he crashes into a pig in the middle of the road.

6 I met a new girl at a barbecue, very pretty—blonde, I think. I don't know; her hair was on fire, and all she talked about was herself. You know these kind of girls: "I'm hot. I'm on fire. Me, me, me." You know. "Help me out." Come on, could we talk about me just a little bit? (Garry Shandling)

23 I can't think of anything worse after a night of drinking than waking up next to someone and not being able to remember their name or how you met or why they're dead. (Laura Kightlinger)

18 Jack Benny is walking down the street and a stickup man pulls out a gun and says, "Your money or your life?" An extremely long silence follows. The gunman gets exasperated. "I said, 'Your money or your life!'" Benny says, "I'm thinking, I'm thinking!"

15 A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells, "You should have been here at 8:30!" He replies, "Why? What happened at 8:30?"

60 I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land. (Jon Stewart)

56 Fortunately, my parents were intelligent, enlightened people. They accepted me exactly for what I was: a punishment from God. (David Steinberg)

52 If you're born a suspect, everybody is scared of you. I can walk down the street anywhere in America and women will clutch their purses, hold on to their Mace, lock their car doors. If I look up into the windows of the apartments, I can see old ladies on the phone. They've already dialed 9-1-1, and are just waiting for me to do something wrong. (Chris Rock)

49 Two guys are walking through the desert a couple of miles outside town. All of a sudden, a rattlesnake jumps out and bites one right on the head of his penis. The guy screams in agony. His friend doesn't know what to do. "Get a doctor!" his crumpled friend pleads. So the guy runs as fast as he can all the way back to town. He runs through the streets, pounds on doors and finally finds the town doctor, who is midway through delivering a baby. "I can't go out there—I've got to deliver this child," the doctor tells the man, "but here's what you have to do. You have to suck the poison out. Suck all the poison out of the wound before it spreads to the heart—and do it fast!" So the guy runs, two miles, all the way out to the desert. He is almost completely exhausted as he finally reaches his friend, who is lying there, clutching his private parts, writhing in pain. "What did the doc say?" the guy asks. "Doctor says you're gonna die."

46 There was a very unusual hospital where one of the main treatments was that the nurses would take the male patients home and sleep with them. But there was one patient, no one wanted to take him home. He was a small man, and he had tattooed on his penis the word SHORTY. Well, finally one nurse feels sorry for him and takes him home and sleeps with him. She comes back the next morning smiling. The other nurses ask what she could possibly be so happy about after sleeping with a guy with SHORTY written on his penis. "Yes," replies the nurse, "but when he becomes aroused, it says, SHORTY'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA." "Wow!" they say. "ORDERS TO TAKE OUT," she continues. "ALL BAKING DONE ON PREMISES...ESTABLISHED 1922...PARTIES OUR SPECIALTY."

45 They say that animal behavior can warn you when an earthquake is coming. Like the night before the last earthquake hit, our family dog took the car keys and drove to Arizona. (Gene Perret, for Bob Hope)

59 The only thing I know about Africa is that it's far, far away. A thirty-five-hour flight. Imagine the boat ride. The boat ride's so long, there are still slaves on their way here. (Chris Rock)

55 I got into a fight one time with a really big guy, and he said, "I'm going to mop the floor with your face." I said, "You'll be sorry." He said, "Oh yeah? Why?" I said, "Well, you won't be able to get into the corners very well." (Emo Philips)

51 The king of Sweden was out hunting in the woods with one of his assistants. As they looked around, suddenly there appeared in the clearing another man. The king raised his rifle. The man shouted, "I'm not a moose!" The king fired a shot and killed the man. Stunned, the assistant said, "Sire, he said, 'I'm not a moose.'" "Oh," said the king. "I thought he said, 'I am a moose.'"

50 Groucho, timing the pulse of an unconscious man: "Either this man is dead or my watch has stopped!"

44 I was walking across a bridge one day and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. So I ran over and said, "Stop! Don't do it!" "Why shouldn't I?" he said. "Well, there's so much to live for!" "Like what?" "Well, are you religious?" He said yes. I said, "Me too! Are you Christian or Buddhist?" "Christian." "Me too! Are you Catholic or Protestant?" "Protestant." "Me too! Are you Episcopalian or Baptist?" "Baptist." "Wow, me too! Are you Baptist Church of God or Baptist Church of the Lord?" "Baptist Church of God!" "Me too! Are you original Baptist Church of God, or are you Reformed Baptist Church of God?" "Reformed Baptist Church of God!" "Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915?" He said, "Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!" I said, "Die, heretic," and pushed him off. (Emo Philips)

58 I always wanted to be the last guy on earth, just to see if all those women were lying to me. (Ronnie Shakes)

53 A genie offers to fulfill an old Jewish man's any one wish. The old man requests that there be peace in the Middle East. The genie admits that peace in the Middle East is beyond his powers. It's a conflict as old as time itself, with intractable religious, social and economic issues involved. Is there any other one wish he would be satisfied with? The old man thinks for a moment and then asks if just once, possibly, he could receive oral sex from his wife. The genie thinks for a moment and then says, "OK, when you say the word peace, do you mean..."

50 Groucho, timing the pulse of an unconscious man: "Either this man is dead or my watch has stopped!"

48 I'm a major hypochondriac. I won't even masturbate anymore. I'm afraid I might give myself something. (Richard Lewis)

47 My family wasn't very religious. On Hanukkah they had a menorah on a dimmer. (Richard Lewis)

57 Why are women wearing perfumes that smell like flowers to attract men? Men don't like flowers. I wear a scent called "new-car interior." (Rita Rudner)