

LIST 208. TONGUE TWISTERS

Tongue twisters are great fun. Try a different one each week. Tongue twisters are great practice for auditory awareness, sound discrimination, and articulation. They can be especially helpful for students who are learning English as a second language. Many of these tongue twisters are used by actors and announcers as elocution exercises.

Repeaters (Try saying these three times quickly.)

A regal rural ruler	Pug puppy
Baboon bamboo	Red leather, yellow leather
Cheap ship trips	Smashed shrimp chips
Crisco crisps crusts	Three free throws
Girl gargoyle, guy gargoyle	Tiny orangutan tongues
Greek grapes	Toy boat
Knapsack strap	Truly plural
Lemon liniment	Urgent detergent
Peggy Babcock	

One Liners

- A box of mixed biscuits, a mixed biscuit box.
- A noisy noise annoys an oyster.
- An icehouse is not a nice house.
- Andy ran from the Andes to the Indies in his undies.
- Black bugs bleed black blood.
- Do drop in at the Dewdrop Inn.
- Even Edith eats eggs.
- Five minutes to eight, not five minutes to wait.
- For fine fish phone Phil.
- Friday's Five Fresh Fish Specials.
- Give me some ice, not some mice.
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
- Is there a pleasant peasant present?
- Lesser leather never weathered lesser wetter weather.
- Lesser weather never weathered lesser wetter leather.
- Lot lost his hot chocolate at the loft.
- Mrs. Smith's Fish Sauce Shop.
- Seven silly Santas slid on the slick snow.
- Seven silly swans swam silently seaward.
- She sells seashells by the seashore, and the shells she sells are seashells.
- Sheep shouldn't sleep in a shack. Sheep should sleep in a shed.
- Silly Sally slid down a slippery slide.
- Six sharp smart sharks.
- Six sick snakes sit by the sea.
- Six thick thistle sticks.
- Strong sharks sink ships.

Ten tiny tin trains toot ten times.
 That bloke's back brake-block broke.
 The big black-backed bumblebee.
 The cat catchers can't catch caught cats.
 The myth of Miss Muffet.
 The sheik's sixth sheep's sick.
 The summer school, not a summer's cool.
 The sun shines on shop signs.
 Thin sticks, thick bricks.
 Three free thugs set three thugs free.
 Which witch wished which wicked wish?
 Whistle for the thistle sifter.

Stories

A big black bug bit a big black bear and the big black bear bled blood.
 A big bug bit the little beetle but the little beetle bit the big bug back.
 A flea and a fly flew up in a flue. Said the flea, "Let us fly!" Said the fly, "Let us flee!"
 So they flew through a flaw in the flue.
 A tree toad loved a she-toad that lived up in a tree. She was a three-toed tree toad, but
 a two-toed toad was he.
 Betty Botter had some butter. "But," she said, "this butter's bitter. If I bake this bitter
 butter, it would make my batter bitter."
 Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?
 I thought a thought. But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought.
 On two thousand acres, too tangled for tilling, where thousands of thorn trees grew thrifty
 and thrilling, Theophilus Twistle, less thrifty than some, thrust three thousand thistles
 through the thick of his thumb!
 Once upon a barren moor there dwelt a bear also a boar. The bear could not bear the boar.
 The bear thought the boar a bore. At last that bear could bear no more of that boar that
 bored him on the moor and so one morn' he bored that boar. That boar will bore the
 bear no more.
 Our Joe wants to know if your Joe will lend our Joe your Joe's banjo. If your Joe won't lend
 our Joe your Joe's banjo, our Joe won't lend your Joe our Joe's banjo when our Joe has a
 banjo!
 Two witches bought two wrist watches, but which witch wore which wrist watch?
 Unique New York, you need New York, you know you need unique New York.
 Whether the weather is hot. Whether the weather is cold. Whether the weather is either
 or not. It is whether we like it or not.

See also List 127, Speech Sound Development; List 162, Spelling and Pronunciation.