

Episode 3: Talk Segment with Professor Long

(Piano Riff) Hello everyone and welcome to the talk segment with Professor Long. My name is Christopher Long and I am a professor in the English Department here at Tohoku Gakuin University. Yes, Tohoku Gakuin University here in Sendai. The students of this university are bringing you this podcast.

Okay, so, uh, what is the topic for today (car horn)? Today's topic is jokes. Yes, that's right, jokes. In Japan, there is a saying about American jokes. So, for example, whenever I try and say something funny that other people don't think is funny, they say, 'Oh, it's an American joke'. Well, I don't know if my bad jokes represent an 'American joke,' but it is true that Americans love their jokes. This is true not only for adults but even for small children. In fact, there are many jokes that small children know and tell. They tell them so often, in fact, that the joke itself (telling the joke itself) is like a joke...Okay, let me give an example.

Have you ever heard of "knock knock jokes?" Yes, that's right, knock knock jokes. Okay, so these knock knock jokes are very common and popular among American children. Alright, so, what is a knock knock joke? A knock knock joke is a joke that follows a set pattern. So first, it begins with someone saying "knock knock." Okay, this is supposed to imitate the sound of someone knocking on a door, (sound of knocking). Like that. Alright, so first someone says knock knock, then the other person responds to this by always saying "Who's there?" Okay? So it's like they're answering the door. The first person is at the door knocking (knock knock) and then the other person answers saying "Oh hello, okay, who's there?" "Who is there?" "Who is on the other side of the door?" Okay? That's the beginning of the joke.

Then the first person answers by saying a first name. Okay? A first name. Now, a first name is not enough, right? Maybe you have many friends with the same first name. So, the second person then answers, asks what is the last name? Right? They want to know what is the full name: the first name and the last name. So, um, they, eh, right, that's what they do. Then, finally the last step of the joke is the first person says the full name: the first name and last name. But, the joke is that the first name and the last name together sound like something else. It is play on words, a play on words. That means it has two meanings. It sounds like a name, but it has another meaning which is funny, maybe. Okay, alright, so um, let's, let me give you an example, alright here's a joke.

(Line 1) A: Knock knock
(Line 2) B: Who's there?
(Line 3) A: Max
(Line 4) B: Max who?
(Line 5) A: It Max no difference. Just open the door!

Ha ha ha ha! Funny? Do you get it? Do you understand the joke? Let me explain alright? So, the first name Max. Sounds like the first name Max M-A-X. Then, when the second person says "Max who?" So, "Max, what's your last name?" "Max what?" "Max who?" The answer is "Max no difference!" "It Max no difference!" "Max" sounds like "makes." Right? So, "It makes no difference," "I don't want to tell you my last name!" "It doesn't matter, just open the door!" "Max who" "It Max no difference. Just open the door!"

Alright, well, ha ha ha that is an example of a knock knock joke. Actually, most knock knock jokes are very stupid because they are for small children. But they are kind of funny, kind of cute. Alright, one more. Let me just tell you one more. Alright, here we go.

(Line 1) A: Knock knock
(Line 2) B: Who's there?
(Line 3) A: Amanda
(Line 4) B: Amanda who?
(Line 5) A: Amanda fix the television.

Ha ha ha ha (old horn honkling)! Did you get that? Did you get it? Did you understand it? "Amanda fix the television!" Well, if you got it, if you understood this joke, send me an email, send me a message, and explain what is the play on words? I will tell give you the answer next week.

(Piano riff) Okay folks, that's all for now. Yes, we are done.

Thank you very much and I will see you next time.