

## **Football jokes – Englisch lernen mit Humor**

### **1. Didaktische Begründung**

"Classrooms in which laughter is welcome help bring learning to life" (Dickinson 2001). Diese Vitalisierung des schulischen Lernens via Humor vermögen *jokes* zu leisten, schließlich sind sie "something that you say or do to make people laugh, especially a funny story or trick" (Summers 2003:872) bzw. – laut *American Heritage Dictionary* – "something said or done to evoke laughter or amusement, especially an amusing story with a punch line" (Houghton Mifflin 2000).

Die *football jokes* und deren Einsatz im Englischunterricht beschränken sich dabei im Folgenden auf das gesprochene/geschriebene Wort und lassen die *practical jokes* außen vor. Eine weitere Beschränkung auf so genannte *clean jokes* erfolgt aus pädagogischen und didaktischen Gründen. Für *inside jokes* ist Spezialwissen über bestimmte Personen und Vereine vonnöten, über das die englischen *soccer fans* verfügen, nicht aber unsere SchülerInnen. Problematisch sind auch *dirty jokes* mit ihren sexuellen Anspielungen sowie *sick jokes*, die zu Haß, Gewalt und Rassismus aufstacheln.

Ähnlich wie andere authentische zielsprachige Texte bieten sich *football jokes* für sprachliches Training in den vier bzw. fünf Grundfertigkeiten (*reading, listening, speaking, writing – translating*), die Festigung struktureller und funktioneller Sprachphänomene, die Erweiterung des Weltwissens und den Ausbau von *intercultural communicative competence* an. Zudem erfordern Witze ein anderes Sprachverstehen als *straight texts*. Die spezifischen formalen und rhetorischen Elemente eines *joke* wie Kürze, Prägnanz, Pointierung, *punch line*, *surprise*, *word play*, *exaggeration* machen ihn für die gezielte Förderung von *language awareness* geeignet.

So lassen sich, ausgehend vom affektiven Faktor der Freude an witzigen *football jokes*, verschiedene sprachpraktische und kommunikative Intentionen verfolgen. Besonders was die emotionale Dimension betrifft, erlaubt ein Rückgriff auf Krashens

*affective filter hypothesis* die Schlussfolgerung, dass solche Sprachwitzeleien zu einer entspannten Lernatmosphäre im Klassenzimmer beitragen und den *input* zum *intake* werden lassen (vgl. auch Gilliland & Mauritsen 1971, Kristmanson 2000, Provine 2002, Underhill 2000, Vizmuller 1980). Nicht zuletzt tut es dem Fußball, der sich zusehends einer Verklärung, Kulturalisierung und Mythologisierung konfrontiert sieht, recht gut, wenn er mal nicht so ernst genommen wird. Schließlich meinte schon G.K. Chesterton: "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Never forget that the devil fell by force of gravity."

## 2. Methodische Variabilität

Im Folgenden sind 15 Übungstypen aufgeführt, die veranschaulichen, wie man mit *football jokes* konkret im Englischunterricht arbeiten kann (vgl. auch Thaler 2003).

Tabelle 1: Unterrichtsverfahren mit *football jokes*

Type	Questions/Tasks
(1) Retelling	Try to retell the joke in your own words.
(2) Comprehension	What did you not understand? What does ... mean?
(3) Humour analysis	Why is this joke supposed to be humorous?
(4) Personal opinion	Do you like this joke? Why (not)?
(5) Linguistic analysis	What rhetoric (lexical, stylistic, syntactic, semantic) devices can you detect? Why are they used?
(6) Punch line (gapped text)	The last line (answer, punch line, word) is missing. Have a guess what it could be.
(7) Jumbled order	The different parts (sentences, paragraphs) of this joke have been put into the wrong order. Reconstruct its correct order.
(8) Translation	Try to write a stylistically appropriate German

	translation of this joke.
(9) Matching	The following 6 jokes have been cut into two pieces each, with the punch line being on the second piece. Put them together again.
(10) Expansion	Lengthen this joke by adding adjectives <i>or</i> nouns <i>or</i> subordinate clauses <i>or</i> additional sentences.
(11) Genre transfer	Transform this joke into a picture <i>or</i> a playlet <i>or</i> a radio play <i>or</i> a sketch.
(12) Ranking	Which jokes do you like more than others? Place the following 5 football jokes into your personal joke parade (no. 1 ... 5).
(13) Reading aloud	Read out the joke.
(14) Acting	Get together in small groups. Distribute the roles (narrator, different characters), learn your part by heart, and act it out.
(15) Joke creation	Create your own football jokes and write them down on slips of paper. They will be put up on the wall and/or sent to football websites.

### 3. Ausgewählte Beispiele

Die folgenden Beispiele sind allesamt *clean jokes*, nach den fünf beliebtesten Spott-Objekten sortiert und sowohl sprachlich als auch inhaltlich so einfach, dass ein Einsatz spätestens ab der Mittelstufe der Sekundarstufe I, teilweise schon in der Unterstufe möglich ist.

Tabelle 2: *Clean football jokes*

<b>Referees</b>
The Devil was constantly challenging St Peter to a game of soccer, but St Peter refused, until one day while walking around heaven he discovered that quite a number of international footballers had entered the 'pearly gates'.

"I think I'll arrange to play that soccer game," said St Peter to the Devil. "We have a great number of international soccer stars in heaven at the moment from which to select a winning team."  
"You'll lose, you'll lose!" taunted the Devil. "What makes you so sure we'll lose?" enquired St Peter.  
"Because," laughed the Devil, "we have all the referees down here."

Definition of a good referee:

- 1) Must be fair
- 2) Must be consistent
- 3) Must make correct judgements
- 4) Must be able to stay in control
- 5) Must award your team at least two penalties and give out two red cards to opposition players

Reasons to become a referee:

- 1) You love football, but can't quite understand the rules.
- 2) You have the strange desire to run aimlessly around in the wind, rain and snow.
- 3) You love the sound of verbal abuse.
- 4) You find it hard to make decisions and whenever you do you are always wrong.

### **Players**

Q: Why is David Beckham like a Cartier watch?

A: They both come in a posh box.

David Beckham is celebrating.

"57 days, 57 days!" he shouts happily. Posh asks him why he is celebrating. He answers:

"Well, I've done this jigsaw in only 57 days."

"Is that good?" asks Posh.

"You bet" says David. "It says 3 to 5 years on the box."

Q: Anagram of "George Best"?

A: Go get beers

### **Teams**

A little boy took his parents to court because he did not want to live with them anymore. The honoured judge said to him: "So why don't you want to live with your dad?"

"Because he beats me", said the little boy.

"Why don't you want to live with your mum then?" asked the judge.

"Because she beats me as well."

"Oh," said the judge. "Who would you like to live with then?"

The little boy replied: "I would like to live with Southampton FC, because they don't beat anyone!"

The rivalry between Celtic and Rangers in Scotland is well known. A Celtic fan looking for trouble went up to a perfect stranger in a pub in Sauchiehall Street and shouted in his ear: "To hell with the Rangers!"

The stranger looked puzzled. "I don't know what you're talking about, bud," he said. "I'm an American from Houston, Texas."

The Celtic fan looked nonplussed for a moment but then, with a flash of inspiration, he yelled, "To hell with the Texas Rangers, then!"

You know you are supporting the worst team in the country if:

- 1) The team play in 0-10-1 formation.
- 2) You consider a 4-1 defeat a moral victory.
- 3) The referee apologises for every decision against your team.
- 4) The team pray before kick-off.
- 5) They have had five managers in the last three months.
- 6) A collection is taken during the match so the players can be paid.
- 7) You have to consult your five year diary to remember their last goal.
- 8) Opposition players get sent off for laughing.

- 9) Supporters are often asked to play for the team.
- 10) There are fewer supporters than players.
- 11) They are sponsored by the local launderette.
- 12) None of the players are married to a pop star or supermodel.

#### **Fans**

Three fans were bemoaning the fact that their team kept losing and was facing relegation.  
"I blame the manager," said the first, "if he signed new players then we could be a great side."  
"I blame the players," said the second, "if they made more effort I'm sure we'd score more goals."  
"I blame my parents," added the third, "if I'd been born in another town I'd be supporting a decent team!"

Did you hear what happened to old Andy McTavish last Saturday?  
He walked all the way to Cardiff for the Cup Final to save on the train fare and then had to pay £20 to get in because he was too tired to climb over the wall!

5 Phrases a true supporter will never utter to an opposition fan:

- 1) May the best team win.
- 2) That was never a penalty – our player took a dive.
- 3) Although we lost 7-0 I thought the referee was extremely fair.
- 4) Congratulations – great win. Your team were far superior.
- 5) Let's swap scarves – I would be so proud to wear your team colours.

#### **Wives**

"My wife told me last week that she'd leave me if I didn't stop spending so much time at football matches."

"What a shame!"

"Yes. I shall miss her."

A woman was reading a newspaper one morning and said to her husband:

"Look at this, dear. There's an article here about a man who traded his wife for a season ticket to Arsenal. You wouldn't do a thing like that, would you?"

"Of course I wouldn't!" replied her husband. "The season's almost over!"

#### **4. Hilfreiche Quellen**

Wer weitere *football jokes* sucht, wird vor allem bei den folgenden Websites fündig:

[www.humorsphere.com/football/](http://www.humorsphere.com/football/)

[www.laughfc.co.uk/](http://www.laughfc.co.uk/)

[www.neilarksey.co.uk/footjokes.html](http://www.neilarksey.co.uk/footjokes.html)

[www.jokes.net/footballjokes.htm](http://www.jokes.net/footballjokes.htm)

[www.socceraddicts.com/Joke.htm](http://www.socceraddicts.com/Joke.htm)

[www.ahajokes.com/spo13.html](http://www.ahajokes.com/spo13.html)

[www.weird-websites.com/jokes/footballjokes/](http://www.weird-websites.com/jokes/footballjokes/)

[dmoz.org/Sports/Soccer/Fun/](http://dmoz.org/Sports/Soccer/Fun/)

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