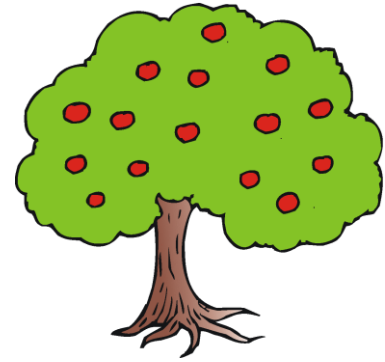


Just a Bite



Quote to ponder under the apple tree

A good laugh and a long sleep
are the best cures in the doctor's book.
~ Irish proverb

I'm a firm believer in that opening quote, and in honor of **St. Patrick's Day**, this issue of **Just a Bite** features excerpts from the **MindPlay Connections™** title "**Celebrating the Irish.**" It covers "Finian's Rainbow," Irish surnames, Irish blessings, Irish celebrities, Irish songs and slang, and so much more. We're quite sure it will make you laugh without putting you to sleep. To order, go directly to the shopping tab at www.WiserNow.com.

Spread the word: You are welcome to – encouraged to – share this issue of Just a Bite with all or anyone on your mail list.

Trivia quiz: Irish Traditions

1. The national symbol of Ireland is the shamrock.

a. True ___ b. False ___



2. The legend of St. Patrick driving out the snakes from Ireland is a bit of blarney. There never were any snakes in Ireland to drive out.

a. True ___ b. False ___

3. Corned beef and cabbage is not a true Irish dish, but a Jewish-Irish dish born of Irish immigrants' need

to find a cheaper substitute for bacon.

a. True ___ b. False ___

4. The wearin' of the green on St. Patrick's Day stems from the Irish tradition of wearing green hats and suits on the holiday.

a. True ___ b. False ___

5. Ireland is also know as Hibernia, which means "wintry," so called by the Romans who were never able to conquer it.

a. True ___ b. False ___

(Answers at end of document)

Word game: The Impish Irish



E.Y. Harburg in writing the lyrics for songs in “Finian’s Rainbow” obviously had fun making up words to fit his intent. At one point, Sharon and Og are flirting with one another and sing a song called, “Something Sort of Grandish” about what they are feeling. Here are a few of its lines:

My heart feels so sugar candish . . .
It's so terrifish, magnifish, delish. . .
Why should I vanquish,
Relinquish, resish,
When I simply relish this swellish condish?

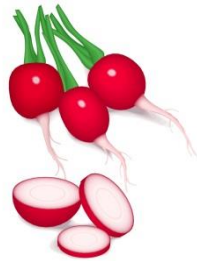
That got me thinking about all the real words to which we commonly add “ish.”

Can you fill in the blanks below with an “ish” word?

dish	horseradish	outlandish	replenish
embellish	licorice	radish	snobbish
garnish	nourish	relish	squeamish

When you are famished, you may eat things that are quite

1) _____. However, if you confine yourself to foods that end in “ish,” you will find little to 2) _____ you. You might 3) _____ a 4) _____ with 5) _____ or 6) _____ your black 7) _____ with a daub of 8) _____, but I cannot imagine that either is a 9) _____ that will 10) _____ you. Still, you can be neither 11) _____ nor 12) _____ when you are famished.



Imagine a Blessing

Perhaps the most well-known of Irish blessings is this one:

May you be half an hour in Heaven
Before the Devil knows you're dead.



There are many more, but why not try out your own gift of gab?

Whatever your ethnic heritage, it's a kind gesture to bestow a blessing on others. What would you say to those near and dear to you or, more broadly, to foster harmony among all? Think of it, and share it!

Trivia quiz: Irish Names



Can you guess the answers to these Irish surname questions?

1. "O" before an Irish name means "son of".

a. True ____ b. False ____

2. Many people of Irish heritage are known for their red hair. All but one of the following surnames refers to red and/or a ruddy complexion. Which one doesn't belong?

a. Flanagan ____ b. Flynn ____ c. Lyons ____ d. Reid ____

3. Another group of Irish people have black hair. All but one of the following surnames refers to brown, black, and/or dark. Which one doesn't belong?

a. Blake ____ b. Donovan ____ c. Dwyer ____ d. Fahey ____

4. Two other common Irish names refer to head coverings or lack thereof. One of the following means "helmet-headed" and the other means "bald." Which is which?

a. Kennedy means helmet-headed; Mullen means bald. ____

b. The opposite is true. ____

5. Two Irish names mean "king," but one means "little king." Which is it?

a. Regan ____ b. Ryan ____



Word game: Match the Irish Proverb's Beginning to Its Ending?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. A good beginning is . . . | a. . . . a salmon in the sea. |
| 2. A kind word never . . . | b. . . . broke anyone's mouth. |
| 3. A trout in the pot is better than . . . | c. . . . calls the tune. |
| 4. Every dog is brave . . . | d. . . . half the work. |
| 5. He who pays the piper . . . | e. . . . on his own doorstep. |

And here's one more Irish proverb for the road

- Never bolt your door with a boiled carrot.



Answers to Irish traditions trivia:

2, 3, and 5 are true.

1. False; the symbol is a Celtic harp
4. False; traditionally they wear a single sprig of shamrock in their suit lapels

Answers to the Impish Irish word game:

Following are the answers I intended, but other combinations are probably possible.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. outlandish | 5. relish | 9. dish |
| 2. nourish | 6. embellish | 10. replenish |
| 3. garnish | 7. licorice | 11. squeamish |
| 4. radish | 8. horseradish | 12. snobbish |

Answers to the Irish names trivia:

1. b; "O" means grandson of
2. c; Lyons means grey
3. d; Fahey means green or lawn
4. a
5. a

Answers to the Irish proverbs:

1.d 2.b 3.a 4.e 5.c

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