

**ENGLISH RIDDLES
WITH EXPLANATIONS
AND NOTES IN DUTCH**

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English Riddles with explanations and notes in dutch by Benj. S. Berrington & John S. Berrington

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BY

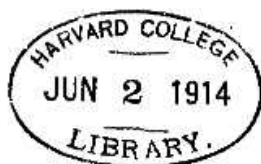
BENJ. S. BERRINGTON

&

JOHN S. BERRINGTON.

PURMEREND. — J. MUUSSES. — 1905.

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*Gift of
Edwin S. Mullins*

RIDDLES.

1. Why is an author the queerest animal in the world?

Because his tale comes out of his head.

REMARK. Tale, *verhaal*; tail, (same pronunciation) *staart*;
Queer, *vreemd*.

2. Where was Moses when the light went out?

In the dark.

3. Why is an author freer than any monarch?

Because he can choose his own subjects.

REMARK. Subject, *onderdaan*, *onderwerp*.

4. Why is a pig the most curious of all animals?

Because he must be killed before he can be cured.

REMARK. Pig, *big*; to cure, *genezen*; also, *zouten*, *inmaken*,
pekelen. There is here a play, (*woordspeling*) on
the word cured.

5. Why was the first day of Adam's life the longest?

Because it had no Eve.

REMARK. Eve, *Eva*; also poetical for evening.

6. When is a bonnet not a bonnet?

When it becomes a woman.

REMARK. Bonnet, *vrouwenhoed*, *muts*. To become, *worden*, *passen*.

7. What is the best dress-improver?

A pretty girl.

8. Why is a newspaper like an army?

Because it has leaders, columns and reviews.

REMARK. Leader, *hoofdartikel*, *aanvoerder*; review, *recensie*, *monstering*.

9. What do liars do after death?

They lie still.

REMARK. Liar, *leugenaar*; to lie, *liegen*, *liggen*.

10. Why are barristers amongst the most religious people?

Because they attend to the law and the profits.

REMARK. Barrister, *advokaat*; religious, *godsdienstig*; profits, *winsten*; Prophets, *profeten*; to attend to, *letten op*.

11. Why are ladies like arrows?

Because they can't go off without a beau, and are always in a quiver till they get one.

REMARK. Arrow, *pijl*; to go off, here, *weggeschoten worden*, also *trouwen*. Beau, *minnaar*. Bow, *boog*. Quiver, *koker*, *trilling*. To get, *krijgen*.

12. Why were gloves never meant to sell?

Because they were made to be kept on hand.

REMARK. *Gloves, handschoen. To keep, houden; on hand, in voorraad.*

13. Why is death like the letter E?

Because it is at the end of "life".

14. Why is a schoolmistress like the letter C?

Because she makes classes of lasses.

REMARK. *Less, meisje.*

15. Why is a washerwoman like a navigator?

Because she spreads her sheets, crosses the line and goes from pole to pole.

REMARK. *Navigator, zeevaarder; sheets, laken, zeilen. The line, evenaar, ook touse waarop de wascherous haar goed hangt.*

16. Why is a candle-maker the most sinful and unfortunate of men?

Because all his works are wick-ed, and all his wick-ed works are brought to light.

REMARK. *Candle-maker, kaarsenmaker. Sinful, zondig. Wicked, goddeloos; wick is de pit, thus wick-ed is voorzien van een pit. To bring to light, aan het licht brengen.*

17. Why are sentries like day and night?

Because when one comes the other goes.

REMARK. *Sentry, schildwacht.*

18. Why is a kiss like a rumour?
Because it goes from mouth to mouth.
REMARK. Kiss, *kus*; rumour, *gerucht*, *praatje*, *lopend verhaal*.
19. When are we all artists?
When we draw a long face.
REMARK. Artist, *kunstschilder*; to draw a long face, *een lang gezicht trekken*.
20. What lock is that which no burglar can pick?
A lock from a bald head.
REMARK. Lock, *slot*, ook *lok*, *krul*. Burglar, *inbreker*. Pick, *openen*. Bald, *kaal*.
21. What woman is recorded in the Bible to have been the first to chastise her husband?
Eve: when she gave Adam a little Cain (Cane).
REMARK. To record, *vermelden*. Chastise, *kastijden*, *straffen*. Cane, *stok*.
22. Why is a watch-dog bigger by night than by day?
Because he is let out at night and taken in in the morning.
REMARK. Watch-dog, *waakhond*; to let out, *iets breeder maken*, *een kleedingstuk bijvoorbeeld*; to take in, *smaller maken*; to let out is also, of course, *uittaten*; and take in, *binnenlaten*.
23. Why are Bulwer Lytton and Dickens the two most industrious authors that ever lived?
Because "Lytton wrote" Night and Morning, and Dickens wrote "All the Year Round".

REMARK. Night and Morning is a novel, *roman*; All the Year Round a periodical, *tijdschrift*.

24. When is a donkey like a lawyer?

When he is drawing out a conveyance.

REMARK. Donkey, *ezel*; lawyer, *rechtgeleerde*; to draw out, *opstellen*, *opmaken*; conveyance, *vervoermiddel*, *overdracht*.

25. Give me the names of the oldest astronomers known.

The stars: because they have studded the heavens ever since the creation.

REMARK. Here there is a play upon the word studded. To stud, is *bedekken*; to study, *studeeren*; past tense, *studied*.

26. When is wine like a pig's tooth?

When it is in a Hog's head (Hogshead).

REMARK. Hog, *varken*; Hogshead, *okshoofd*.

27. When do we all resemble fishermen and shepherds?

When we are obliged to do things by hook or by crook.

REMARK. Hook, *haak*; crook, *herdersstaf*; to do things by hook or by crook = *op alle manieren, door eerlijke of oneerlijke middelen*.

28. Why ought Goliath not to have been surprised when David hit him with the stone?

Because the thing had entered his head before.

REMARK. To hit, *treffen*, *raken*; had entered his head, *was hem te binnen geschoten*.