



Самые смешные рассказы = **Short Funny Stories**

Ридер-тренажер с цветовой индикацией для подготовки
к экзаменам на A1–A2

Lingua

Издательство АСТ
Москва

УДК 811.111(075)
ББК 81.2Англ-93
С17

Самые смешные рассказы = Short Funny Stories : ридер-тренажер с цветовой индикацией для подготовки к экзаменам на А1—А2. — Москва : Издательство АСТ, 2026. — 128 с. — (Современные ридеры с цветовой индикацией).

ISBN 978-5-17-175649-9

Как подготовиться к Reading и Speaking? Как научиться читать эффективно? Как искать в тексте ключевую для ответа информацию?

Эта серия пособий позволяет читать с пользой для изучения языка, а упражнения в формате экзаменов на соответствующий уровень помогут приобрести необходимые навыки работы с текстом. Каждый урок состоит из предтекстовых упражнений, самого адаптированного текста и послетекстовых упражнений. Все тексты содержат цветовую разметку и сопровождаются цветными комментариями, которые позволяют легко ориентироваться в материале и фокусироваться на полезной лексике и грамматике, а также языковых реалиях. Упражнения помогают лучше понять текст, научиться искать в нем нужную информацию, самостоятельно высказываться по заданной теме и на практике применять ключевой материал урока. В конце издания вы найдете ответы для самопроверки.

В книге представлены адаптированные юмористические рассказы начала XX века: «Mr. and Mrs. Bowser», «Now She Is Thin and He Is Fat», «He Got There All the Same», «Mr. Bowser in the Country», «A Bully Boat and a Brag Captain» С. Смита, «Rollo Learning to Play» Роберта Дж. Бердетта, «A Piano in Arkansas» Т. Топна, «Mr. Bowser on Deck Once More», «He Was Onery but Innocent», «Mr. Bowser As a Whitewasher».

Ридер-тренажер будет полезен для подготовки к международным экзаменам на уровне А1-А2, для обсуждения в языковых книжных клубах, для проведения уроков по английскому языку, а также для всех, кто начинает изучать английский язык самостоятельно.

УДК 811.111(075)
ББК 81.2Англ-93

ISBN 978-5-17-175649-9

© ООО «Издательство АСТ», 2026

MR. AND MRS. BOWSER

Warm-up

1. Answer the questions. Ответьте на вопросы.

Do you like parties? Why or why not?
What problems can happen when you invite many people?

2. Match the words and their definitions. After reading the text check if you did this task correctly. Соедините слова и их определения. После чтения текста проверьте, правильно ли вы выполнили это задание.

1. We have a party in the evening. 2. I plan to meet my friends. 3. My friends come to my house. 4. I invite my friends to my house. 5. I promise to call my friend.	A. To go to a place where someone or something is B. To say you will do something C. To think about what you want to do D. To ask someone to come E. A time when people meet and have fun
--	--

¹ evening ['i:vnɪŋ] — вечер

¹ euchre ['ju:kər] — эухр, популярная в Америке и Великобритании карточная игра, для которой обычно требуется четыре игрока

² party ['pa:ti] — вечеринка

³ plan [plæn] — планировать; план

¹ в оформлении прямой речи (ПР) есть две особенности: 1) используются только кавычки, а не тире; 2) все знаки препинания на конце ПР остаются внутри кавычек.

⁴ It is hard to [ɪt ɪz hɑ:d tə] — трудно (что-то сделать)

⁵ come [kʌm] — приходить

⁶ can [kən] — мочь, быть способным

² can обозначает физическую способность что-либо сделать.

⁷ proudly ['praʊdli] — гордо

³ may обозначает вероятность или позволение что-либо сделать. Здесь *may* указывает на вероятность того, что гости не придут, а не на отсутствие у них физической способности передвигаться.

⁸ invite [ɪn'vaɪt] — приглашать

⁴ в составных числительных (числа 21-99) между десятками и единицами используется дефис.

⁵ *will + инфинитив* (Future Simple) используется для выражения намерений или обещаний.

Text

One evening¹, Mr. Bowser read his newspaper. “Why didn’t we have a progressive euchre¹ party² this year?” he asked.

“It’s too difficult to plan³ this party,”¹ I said.

“Too difficult, eh? I read in the papers that people really like them,” he said.

“It is hard to⁴ get thirty or forty people together on a certain evening, even if all want to come⁵. Mrs. Johnson wanted eight tables and only had five. Mrs. Dart wanted—”

“Oh, nonsense! What does a woman know?”

“But what can⁶ you do, if people cannot come?”

“They can come!² I will plan the party,” he said proudly⁷.

“Very well,” I said. “But some guests may not come.³ Be ready for disappointments.”

“I don’t need your warning! I will invite⁸ thirty-six⁴ people. For every person who does not come, I will⁵ give you twenty dollars!” Mr. Bowser laughed.

He spent the next hour calling⁹ people on the telephone. Soon he had invited ten couples. All promised¹⁰ to come.

“See?” he said. “I already have ten couples ready without leaving my chair. I will get the other eight by tomorrow night. It is all in the planning.”

“You mean, they promise to come?”

“Promise! Promise! Do you think everyone is like you? Most people know what they want for the next day or two, Mrs. Bowser.”

The next night he came home with a list of eighteen couples. They promised seriously to come.

For three days⁶ he was very proud and tried to show me how clever he was. Then the first problem came. The telephone rang and someone asked for Mr. Bowser.

“Hello, Bowser. This is Filbert. We cannot come to your party. My wife must go to the Johnsons’ party,” said a man.

“They are liars! Don’t visit them again,” Mr. Bowser was angry¹¹. “I can easily find others.”

Soon another call came.

“Hello, Bowser. Watkins here. I forgot that our daughter has a child’s party the same night. She invited us. We cannot come,” said another.

“Watkins is a liar! I will never trust them!” said Mr. Bowser in a mad voice.

⁹ calling ['kɔ:lɪŋ] — обзвани-
вая; от *call* — звонить

¹⁰ promise ['prɒmɪs] — обе-
щать

⁶ предлог *for* в сочетании
со словами, указывающи-
ми на время, обозначает
длительность («в тече-
ние»): «в течение трех
дней».

¹¹ angry ['æŋɡrɪ] — раздра-
женный, сердитый

Then a messenger brought a note:
“Mr. and Mrs. Jackson cannot come.
An uncle died in China.”

Mr. Bowser was angry, but he said,
“I will show these liars. I will get other
people!”

Mr. Bowser looked very angry when
the telephone rang:

“Hello, my friend. I cannot come to
your party. I forgot—my sister will get
married that evening. I am sorry, but
I cannot come.”

“I said it is hard to get many people to
come,” I said.

“Did you, Mrs. Bowser? How nice of
you! But I will show you and these liars
a thing or two before it is finished,” he
said *angrily*⁷.

Until Wednesday morning, no more
refusals came. Then more calls arrived:

“That you, Bowser? Is your party
*tonight*¹²? Oh! I thought it was next week.
We cannot come. Sorry, we already have
plans,” one man apologized.

“Hello, Bowser! Nice weather. Is
everything all right? You know, my wife
already had plans for tonight. We cannot
come,” said a man.

“Hello, Bowser. We plan to come early
tonight! But my mother-in-law may
come on the 6.30 train. We cannot come
if she comes,” said another.

⁷ слово *angrily* образуется от
прилагательного *angry* с
помощью суффикса наре-
чий *-ly*. Это позволяет ему
(и другим наречиям на *-ly*)
сочетаться с глаголом, то
есть указывать, как имен-
но человек что-то дела-
ет. При этом слово *angry*
может сочетаться только
с существительным: *angry*
man, но *said angrily*.

¹² *tonight* [tə'naɪt] — сегодня
вечером

By seven in the evening, the last call came: “Hello, Mr. Bowser. Three couples from our street **were going to come**⁸ tonight, but we cannot come. We got free tickets for the opera, and of course—”

Mr. Bowser locked the door, turned off the gas, and sat quietly for hours.

Finally, he looked at me and said, “Mrs. Bowser, some husbands would murder a wife for this!”

“But what have I done?”

“What have you done? You made me give a progressive euchre party, and where is the party? I told you how it **would**⁹ end, and here we are! Mrs. Bowser, I—I...”

He could not speak more and went to bed.

⁸ Three couples... were going to come – конструкция *to be + going + to + инфинитив* обозначает «собираются что-то сделать». Это твердое намерение, в отличие от конструкции с *will*: оно запланировано, к нему действительно готовятся. Здесь: три пары точно собирались прийти.

⁹ *would* – это *will* в Past Simple. Оно используется здесь потому, что герой говорит о будущем, смотря на него из прошлого. Если в предложении есть *said / told / thought* и дальше идет речь о будущем, то *will* → *would*.

EXERCISES

3. Mark the sentences **T (True)**, **F (False)** or **NS (Not Stated)**. Отметьте, утверждение верно (**T**), ложно (**F**) или содержит информацию, которая не была указана в тексте (**NS**).

1. Mr. Bowser thinks it is easy to plan a big party.
2. Mrs. Bowser believes that all invited people will come to the party.
3. Mr. Bowser invites people by telephone.
4. All the invited couples come to the party on Wednesday evening.
5. Filbert cannot come because his wife goes to another party.
6. One couple cannot come because they are ill.
7. Mr. Bowser becomes angry when people cancel their plans.
8. In the end, the party has a great success.

4. Fill the gaps with the right words from the text. Заполните пропуски подходящими словами из текста.

1. Many guests _____ to come, but later they changed their plans.
2. "They _____ come!" Mr. Bowser said _____.
3. One _____, Mr. Bowser read his newspaper.
4. Mr. Bowser wanted to have a big _____ at home.
5. Mr. Bowser decided to _____ thirty-six people.
6. When people said they could not come _____, Mr. Bowser became very _____.
7. Mrs. Bowser said, "_____ many people together."
8. He spent the next hour _____ people on the telephone.

5. Choose the correct answer (a, b or c). Выберите правильный ответ (a, b или c).

1. Mr. Bowser read his newspaper and asked...
a) why they didn't invite enough people to the party.
b) why they didn't have a progressive euchre party this year.
c) why the telephone kept ringing.
2. Mrs. Bowser said it was difficult...
a) to write invitations in time.
b) to call all the guests herself.
c) to plan the party for many people.
3. Mr. Bowser was very proud...
a) because he wrote all the invitations.
b) because he had already invited ten couples easily.
c) because he prepared everything himself.
4. Some guests could not come...
a) because they had other events that night.
b) because they were too busy calling friends.
c) because they were afraid of a large group.
5. Mr. Bowser became angry...
a) when the guests made excuses not to come.
b) when the telephone lines were busy.
c) when Mrs. Bowser suggested changing the date.
6. At the end of the story...
a) Mr. Bowser wrote a long note to the guests.
b) Mr. Bowser decided to hold another party next week.
c) Mr. Bowser went to bed, too full of anger.

6. Complete the sentences with **can or **may**. Завершите предложения, вставив **can** или **may**.**

1. We _____ invite more guests to the party.
2. Guests asked: “_____ we come early tonight?”
3. Mr. Bowser said proudly: “They _____ all come if I call them.”
4. “I’m sorry, you _____ not come on Wednesday evening.”
5. “I _____ show you a list of people who promised to come.”
6. “You _____ plan the party carefully, and it will be successful.”
7. “Some guests _____ forget and not arrive on time.”
8. “I think we _____ still find other people to come.”
9. “You _____ bring ten couples without leaving your chair.”
10. “_____ I call Mr. Filbert to check if he can come?”

7. Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence. Расположите слова в правильном порядке, чтобы составить предложение.

1. thirty-six people / invite / Mr. Bowser / will
2. plan / will / I / the party
3. not / come / will / The guests
4. will / the people / Mr. Bowser / call
5. would / I / end / you / it / how / told
6. to come / They / promise / will
7. Mr. Bowser / show / how clever / he / will / is
8. We / go / to the opera / will
9. help / will / you / I
10. proud / will / Mr. Bowser / be
11. said / he / be / late / would / he
12. knew / she / would / fail / the / plan
13. thought / we / come / not / would / they

8. Read the sentences. Match each sentence with its meaning. Прочитайте предложения. Соедините каждое предложение с его значением.

- A. Promise or decision at the moment
- B. Strong confidence / something is clear now

1. "I will invite thirty-six people."
2. "The guests are going to come."
3. "I will give you twenty dollars."
4. "I will plan everything myself."
5. "The party is going to fail."
6. "Look at the empty chairs. People are going to leave."
7. "I will call more guests tonight."
8. "So many people say no. This party is going to be a disaster."

9. Answer the questions and explain your opinion. Ответьте на вопросы и поясните свое мнение.

How would you describe Mr. Bowser?

What can you do to avoid his mistakes when you plan a party?

When have you changed your plans at the last moment?

NOW SHE IS THIN AND HE IS FAT

Warm-up

1. Answer the questions. Ответьте на вопросы.

How to be healthy?

Which sport is best for your health?

2. Match the words and their definitions. After reading the text check if you did this task correctly. Соедините слова и их определения. После чтения текста проверьте, правильно ли вы выполнили это задание.

1. Mrs. Mullenhauser was afraid to become too **fat**.
2. Mr. Mullenhauser **weighed** only ninety pounds last month.
3. After dieting, she looked very **thin**.
4. He wanted to **gain** a little weight before summer.
5. The doctor told him he should **lose** some pounds for his health.

- A. To get more of something
- B. Very light and not wide; not fat
- C. To have a certain number of pounds or kilos in your body
- D. To reduce weight; to become lighter
- E. Having too much body weight; bigger than usual

Text

Mr. Germain Mullenhauser and his wife do not go to Coney Island every day now. They have returned to their home in Brooklyn. There, they wash in a normal bathtub. It is not sure if they go to the beach again. They are not happy with each other.

Their story is unusual. Two months ago, Mrs. Mullenhauser **weighed**¹ 210 **pounds**¹. Mr. Mullenhauser **weighed**¹ 90 pounds. **Together**², they weighed 300 pounds. They were proud of their weight. They were not **jealous**³ of each other.

One day, a friend said that Mr. Mullenhauser looked too **thin**⁴. The friend gave him a funny name: "Praise-God Bare-Bones." Mr. Mullenhauser went to a doctor to **gain**⁵ weight.

At the same time, a thin friend told Mrs. Mullenhauser that gaining more weight could be bad for her health. She went to a doctor to learn how to **lose**⁶ weight **safely**⁷.

The husband and wife did not go to the same doctor. They only told each other what they did after the doctors **gave** them **advice**⁸.

"Dr. Jones seems to be very clever," said the lady. "He says that swimming

¹ weigh [wei] — весить

¹ pound [paʊnd] — фунт, мера веса, которая используется в англоговорящих странах; равен примерно 453,6 г.

¹ weighed — Past Simple от weigh. Past Simple — это простое прошедшее время, которое используется для обозначения действий в прошлом. Действие завершено тогда же, мы не видим его результата в настоящем.

Past Simple образуется следующим образом:

- к обычным глаголам прибавляется окончание -ed (weight — weighted);

- в неправильных глаголах выбирается вторая форма глагола. Все эти формы нужно запоминать.

В пособии часто будут употребляться следующие глаголы, поэтому рекомендуется их запомнить:

to be — was (ед. ч.),

were (мн. ч.),

go — went,

say — said,

ask — asked,

come — came,

have — had,

think — thought,

look — looked.

² together [tə'geðə(r)] — вместе

³ jealous ['dʒeləs] — завистливый

⁴ thin [θɪn] — худой

⁵ gain [geɪn] — получить;
здесь — набрать

⁶ lose [luːz] — потерять;
здесь — сбросить

⁷ safely ['seɪfli] — безопасно

⁸ give an advice [əd'vaɪs] —
советовать

⁹ in danger ['deɪndʒə(r)] — в
опасности

¹⁰ small [smɔːl] — маленький

¹¹ fat [fæt] — толстый

in the sea can help me lose fourteen pounds in a week.”

“Why, he must be wrong!” shouted her husband. “If you swim in the sea like a big whale, it will only make me gain two pounds a day. That is what Dr. Brown says. I will try it tomorrow.”

“Germain, you are listening to a bad doctor,” said Mrs. Mullenhauser, seriously. “If you go into the big waves at Coney Island, you could be **in danger**⁹. Be happy with your **small**¹⁰ size, and try to be clever with your mind.”

“I won’t!” shouted Germain angrily. “I will follow Dr. Brown’s advice. I want to be as **fat**¹¹ as you are now. But I don’t know how big you will be later if you follow that Jones,” he added, speaking in a joking way.

A small problem started between them. They went to Coney Island together and rented a room and food. They acted friendly in front of other people, but they ate quietly and went to the sea at different places.

Other visitors watched them with surprise. Both Dr. Brown and Dr. Jones were right. After sixty days, their total weight was still 300 pounds, but Mr. Mullenhauser now weighed 210 pounds and could get sick, while his wife weighed only 90 pounds, looked

very thin, and was afraid to go into the waves like before.

They left the seaside on different trains. They wanted to see their family doctor, but he refused to help them. He told them to see Dr. Jones and Dr. Brown instead. Mrs. Mullenhauser is **taller**¹² than her husband. Her **body**¹³ is better for carrying more weight. She looks thin and **fast**¹⁴, like a greyhound. He looks very thin and **weak**¹⁵.

It is possible that before the next summer, Dr. Brown will give advice to the lady, and Dr. Jones will give advice to her husband.

¹² tall [tɔ:l] — высокий

¹³ body ['bɒdi] — тело

¹⁴ fast [fɑ:st] — быстрый

¹⁵ weak [wi:k] — слабый