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2012  
Chinese  
year of the  
dragon!

## Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first Clever Pants newsletter of 2012.

The Clever Pants actors are out on the road, and to celebrate, in addition to our regular quotes, idioms and song, we'll be bringing you some extracts from the classroom workpacks we've made to accompany this year's shows.

This month you'll find an activity based on films and writing a film review from **3 in 1** for secondary classrooms.

The complete workpacks are available to teachers who've booked a Clever Pants show in 2012!

See you soon!

## January Quotes - Laughter!

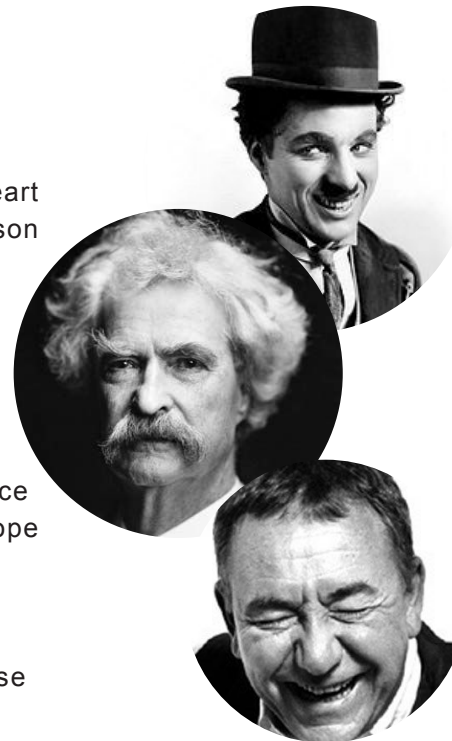
A day without laughter is a day wasted.  
**Charlie Chaplin**

A sense of humour... is needed armour. Joy in one's heart and some laughter on one's lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life.  
**Hugh Sidey**

Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.  
**Mark Twain**

Comedy is defiance. It's a snort of contempt in the face of fear and anxiety. And it's the laughter that allows hope to creep back on the inhale.  
**Will Durst**

Everybody laughs the same in every language because laughter is a universal connection.  
**Yakov Smirnoff**



## A-CET

This year we will once again be working with the African Children's Educational Trust, donating money for every show we do to helping develop educational projects in Africa.  
For more information visit their website at [www.a-cet.org](http://www.a-cet.org)

Top eco-tip: if you print the newsletter out, do it in black and white at low resolution to reduce your use of ink.

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## Idioms and all that jazz..!

This month we're taking a melodic look at some musical idioms... what's that? It's music to your ears..?

### ...and all that jazz!

This idiom means that everything related or similar is included.

"She wants to buy shoes and dresses and all that jazz."

### Blow your own trumpet!

If someone blows their own trumpet, they boast about their talents and achievements.

"I don't want to blow my own trumpet, but nobody could do this better!"

### Change your tune!

If someone changes their ideas or the way they talk about them, they change their tune.

"Last week you said you loved him and now you can't stand him. you've certainly changed your tune!"

### Face the music!

If you have to face the music, you have to accept the negative consequences of something you have done wrong.

"You've got away with this behaviour for too long. It's time to face the music."

### As fit as a fiddle!

If you are as fit as a fiddle, you are in perfect health.

"I went to the doctor for a check up and he told me I'm as fit as a fiddle!"

### Music to my ears!

If something someone says is music to your ears, it is exactly what you had wanted to hear.

"When she told me I was going to be a judge in the chocolate cake competition it was music to my ears!"

### March to the beat of your own drum!

If people march to the beat of their own drum, they do things the way they want without taking other people into consideration.

"You shouldn't always try to please everybody all the time. You have to learn to march to the beat of your own drum."

**idiom** (n): an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning that is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which it is made.



# The 39 Steps

THRILLER



The 39 Steps is a *tense* spy thriller, set in Britain in 1935. It was *based on* a book by John Buchan.

It is full of danger, excitement and adventure. It was directed by Alfred Hitchcock, a very *celebrated* British director, who made many *well-known* films such as The Birds and Psycho.

Actor Robert Donat *plays* a man who meets a beautiful woman, and then *finds out* that she is a spy.

He wants to help her, but she is killed and he must *go on the run* and try to *uncover* a secret network of evil spies!

When he *reveals* the truth, there is a scandal and he is able to *make a getaway*.

The *stars* of the film won many awards. If you like *action packed* films, you'll love The 39 Steps!



Can you find...?

a. Two words that mean "exciting"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Two words that mean "famous"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Two words that mean "discover"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Two words that mean "escape"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e. A word that means "main actors"?

\_\_\_\_\_

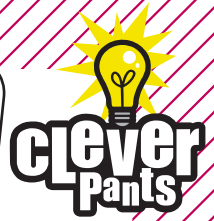
f. A word that means "copied from"?

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the text. Would you like to watch The 39 Steps? Why? Why not?

Use the *italic* words in the text to answer the questions.

THRILLER



2. Translate these questions into your language.

- a. What type of film is it?
- b. Is it based on a book?
- c. Is it set in the present, past or future?
- d. Is it action packed?
- e. Is it very well known?
- f. Who are the stars of the film?

3. Ask your teacher the questions. Can you guess what film they are talking about?

4. Think of a film you like. Can you answer the questions about your film?

Ask your partner about their film.

5. You are going to write a review of your film. You get one point for each phrase you use from the text about *The 39 Steps*.



A large rectangular area with a dashed border, containing ten horizontal lines for writing.





Song - Someone Like You  
Adele

Adele had the biggest hit of 2011 with her song, Someone Like You.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLQI3WQQoQ0>

Can you match the expressions in italics with their meanings?

1. The best moments we experienced.
2. In a long term relationship.
3. Time seems to pass very quickly.
4. Arrive without warning.
5. I hope only good things happen to you.
6. Grow up and become adults.
7. You got what you wanted.



I heard that you're *settled down*  
That you found a girl and you're married now.  
I heard that *your dreams came true*.  
Guess she gave you things I didn't give to  
you.

Old friend, why are you so shy?  
Ain't like you to hold back or hide from the  
light.

I hate to *turn up out of the blue* uninvited  
But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it.  
I had hoped you'd see my face and that you'd  
be reminded  
That for me it isn't over.

*Never mind*, I'll find someone like you  
I *wish nothing but the best for you* too  
Don't forget me, I beg  
I remember you said,  
"Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it  
hurts instead,  
Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it  
hurts instead, "  
Yeah

You know how the *time flies*  
Only yesterday was the *time of our lives*  
We were *born and raised*  
In a summer haze  
Bound by the surprise of our glory days

I hate to turn up out of the blue uninvited  
But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it.  
I'd hoped you'd see my face and that you'd  
be reminded  
That for me it isn't over.

Never mind, I'll find someone like you  
I wish nothing but the best for you too  
Don't forget me, I beg  
I remember you said,  
"Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it  
hurts instead."  
Yeah

Nothing compares  
No worries or cares  
Regrets and mistakes  
They are memories made.  
Who would have known how bittersweet this  
would taste?