

SHOOT OFF ONE'S MOUTH

Jim doesn't play tennis very much, but he's always shooting off his mouth about how good he is. Yet he's fooling nobody. Jim is somewhat of a braggart and everyone knows that he gives opinions without knowing all the facts and talks as if he knew everything about the game.

JUMP DOWN SOMEONE'S THROAT

That's it, Greg! You'd better not come in after midnight again tonight!

I know, dad. You don't have to jump down my throat! I told you that I'd make it home around 11:30. I don't intend to be late!

Well, you've said that before and in you come at 1:30 in the morning. You can't blame me for getting angry and scolding you. I've got good reason.

PAY THROUGH THE NOSE

At last Mr. Smith came upon the rare stamp he had been seeking at an auction. Since many other stamp collectors would also be bidding for it, he realized that he would have to pay through the nose in order to have it.

After considering the increasing value of the stamp, he decided that he would not mind paying such a high price for something so rare.

TONGUE-IN-CHEEK

Why were you teasing Sonia about her new hairdo? She really took offense at what you said.

I didn't mean to offend her. I was simply making a tongue-in-cheek remark when I said that it was too elaborate for a girl of her young, tender age.

Well, she thought you were serious. She had no idea that you were just saying that as a joke.

I'm really sorry. I suppose I owe her an apology.

PULL SOMEONE'S LEG

Hey, Al. I was invited to be a judge for the Miss America Beauty Pageant!

Oh, really? Come on, you're pulling my leg!

No, honestly. Do you really think that I'm trying to fool you with a ridiculous story?

Well, you've told me foolish stories before.

I can assure you that this one is for real.

PLAY IT BY EAR

Let's go to the movies, agreed?

Sure. And what'll we do after that?

Oh, I don't know. Let's play it by ear.

Well, I would like to have a more definite plan of action.

Don't be like that. It's always more fun not knowing what to expect and deciding what to do as we go along.

ALL THUMBS

Hey Bea. Can you help me out? I don't seem to be able to button up the back of my dress.

Sure. Let's see if I can do it for you.

I guess I'm all thumbs because I'm so nervous. I'm already late for my date.

Well, I suppose that being so nervous would make you clumsy and awkward. But don't worry. I'm sure your date will wait.

NOT HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON

Tom maintains that the firm owes him some back wages for having worked overtime. However, he won't have a leg to stand on unless he can prove that he put in all those extra hours. He doesn't stand a chance of getting his money without a strong foundation of facts to support his position.

DRIVE SOMEONE UP THE WALL

Wow! What a great set of drums!

Yeah, they're great, but I can't play on them when my folks are at home. They say I drive them up a wall with all the loud banging.

I get the same thing at home. My folks tell me that I annoy them and get them really angry whenever I turn up the volume on my stereo.