

# Morning Breaks

Volume 12 Number 40

*"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley*

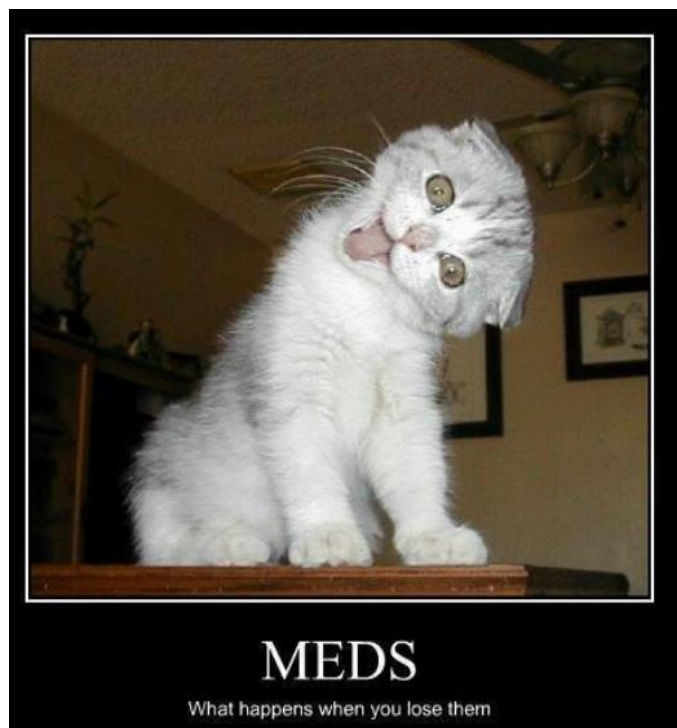
October 6, 2013

I decided to put together one of my six-year-old son's model kits one rainy afternoon. I found one of a dinosaur and was looking over the pieces when he passed by.

"What'cha doing, Dad?" he asked.

I told him I was going to put the dinosaur together, but the instructions were missing.

"Well, Dad," he grinned, "I guess you'll just have to do it from memory."



You've seen those fitness ads on TV promising amazing results from all sorts of contraptions. Well, there's no need to invest in fancy equipment. If you have (or can borrow) a dog, you have everything you need to get in

shape now. The following exercises can be done anywhere, anytime.

**Inner Thighs:** Place the dog's favorite toy between thighs. Press tighter than the dog can pull. Do not attempt bare legged - dogs who favor shortcuts to success will just dig the toy out. You could be damaged.

**Upper Body Strength:** Lift the dog - off the couch, off the bed, out of the flower bed. Repeat, repeat, repeat. As the dog ages, this exercise is reversed - onto the couch, onto the bed, into the car and so on.

**Balance and Coordination, Exercise 1:** Remove your puppy from unsuitable tight places. If they're too small for him, they're certainly too small for you. Do it anyway!

**Balance and Coordination, Exercise 2:** Practice not falling when your dog bounds across the full length of the room, sails through the air, and slams both front paws into the back of your knees.

**Balance and Coordination, Exercise 3:** (for use with multiple dogs) Remove all dogs from lap and answer the phone before it stops ringing.

**Balance and Coordination, Exercise 4:** (alternate) For older dogs, attempt to cross a room without tripping over the dog. Get off your couch without crushing any part of a sleeping elderly dog.

**Upper Arms:** Throw the ball. Throw the squeaky toy. Throw the Frisbee. Repeat until nauseous.

**Upper Arms:** (alternate) Tug the rope. Tug the pull toy. Tug the sock. Repeat until your shoulder is dislocated or the dog gives up (we all know which comes first).

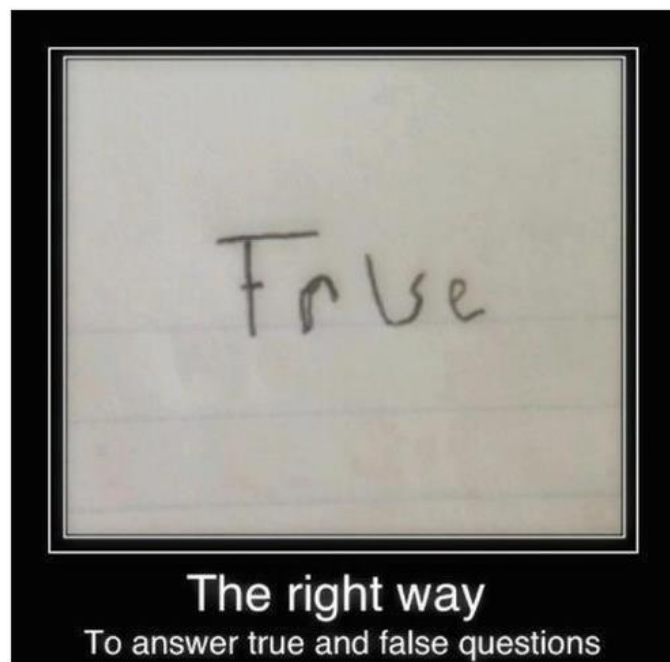
**Hand Coordination:** Remove foreign object from dog's locked jaw. This exercise is especially popular with puppy owners. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. Remember, this is a timed exercise. Movements must be quick and precise (think concert pianist) to prevent trips to the vet, which only offer the minimal exercise benefit of jaw firming clenches.

Calves: After the dog has worn out the rest of your body, hang a circular toy on your ankle and let the dog tug while you tug back. WARNING: This is feasible only for those with strong bones and small dogs. Have you taken your calcium supplement today?

Calves: (alternate) Run after dog - pick any reason, there are plenty. Dogs of any size can be used for this exercise. Greyhounds are inadvisable.

Neck Muscles: Attempt to outmaneuver the canine tongue headed for your ear, mouth, or eyeball. This is a lifelong fitness program. A dog is never too old or too feeble to "kiss" you when you least expect it.

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Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

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A honeymoon couple is in the Watergate Hotel.

The new bride is concerned and asked, "What if the place is still bugged?"

The groom says "Hmm... Good point. I'll look for a bug."

He looks behind the drapes, behind the pictures, under the rug . . . "AHA!" he shouts!

Sure enough, under the rug was a small disc shaped plate, with four screws. He gets his Swiss army knife,

unscrews the screws, throws them and the plate out the window.

The next morning, the hotel manager asks the newlyweds "How was your room? How was the service? How was your stay at the Watergate Hotel?"

Curious, the groom says, "And why, sir, are you asking me all of these questions?"

The hotel manager says "Well, the room UNDER yours complained of the chandelier falling on them!"

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Our office building's only elevator was acting up.

When I rode it to the lobby on my way to lunch, the door refused to open. Trying not to panic I hit the emergency button which triggers an automatic call to the repair service. Through the speaker in the elevator, I heard the call going through and then a recorded announcement:

"The area code of the number you dialed has been changed. The new area code is 450. Please hang up and dial again."

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How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

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A little boy forgot his lines in a Primary Sharing Time presentation.

His mother, sitting in the front row to prompt him, gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

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While vacationing, we were stopped on the road by a police officer for exceeding the posted speed limit. Trying to think of some way out of the predicament, I said to the officer, "Do you realize how much money we've spent in this area today?"

"Well," replied the officer, "you're about to spend a little more."

# Morning Breaks

Volume 12 Number 41

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October 13, 2013

Unaware that Indianapolis is on Eastern Standard Time and Chicago on Central Standard Time, Bob inquired at the Indianapolis airport about a plane to Chicago.

"The next flight leaves at 1:00 p.m.," a ticket agent said, "and arrives in Chicago at 1:01 p.m."

"Would you repeat that, please?" Bob asked.

The agent did so and then inquired, "Do you want a reservation?"

"No," said Bob, "But I think I'll hang around and watch that thing take off."

on the porch all contribute to my daily ritual of sweeping, shaking, vacuuming and washing.

I thought I was pretty neat and tidy until at work one day a colleague with no kids and no pets complained about how dirty her house gets.

"How bad can it be?" I asked. "There are just the two of you living in a new house in the city."

"Well," she complained, "have you ever noticed how much dust flies into the air when you pull a tissue out of the box?"



How does one expect the unexpected?

Keeping our old farmhouse clean is a constant challenge. Muddy boots, socks embedded with straw, dirt blowing through the windows, grandchildren, cats and dogs, even the occasional newborn calf warming up

Once there was a millionaire who collected live alligators. He kept them in the pool in back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful single daughter.

So one day he decides to throw a huge party, and during the party he announces: "My dear guests, I have a proposition to every man here. I will give one million dollars or my daughter to the man that can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed!"

As soon as he finished his last word there was the sound of a large SPLASH! One guy was in the pool, swimming as fast as he could, and the crowd was cheering him on. Finally he made it to the other side unharmed.

The millionaire was impressed. He said "My boy that was incredible! Fantastic! I didn't think it could be done! Well I must keep my end of the bargain, so which do you want: my daughter or the one million dollars?"

The guy says "Listen I don't want your money! And I don't want your daughter! I just want the goober who pushed me into that pool!"

Our 14-year-old grandson has always loved our house. During one visit, he remarked about it again.

"You know." I said, "when Granddad and I are gone your dad will inherit this house. Maybe, when you're older, you'll live here yourself."

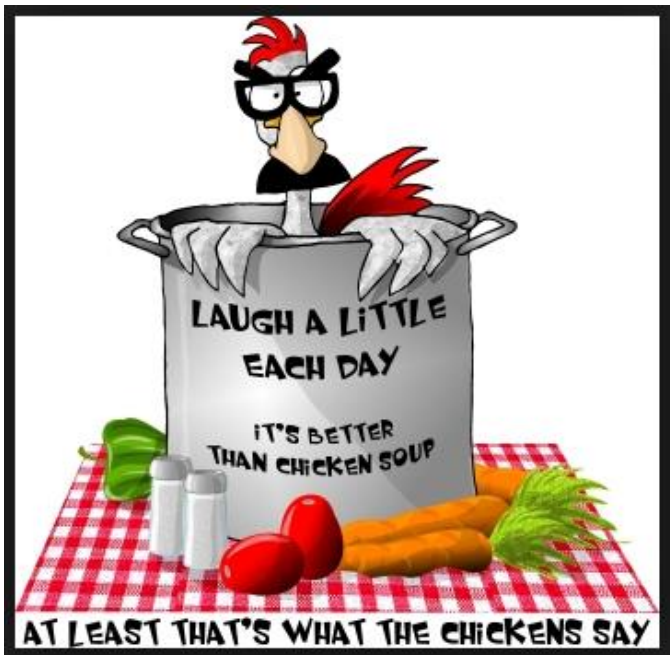
"Oh, Grandma," he said, looking around the living room, "that would be great! And I wouldn't change a thing."

I was feeling quite smug about my decor until he added, "I mean, look at this stuff! It's just like they had on the Titanic!"

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The two biggest problems in America are making ends meet and making meetings end.

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The two young boys were discussing their ailments together in the children's ward.

"Are you medical or surgical?" asked the first, who had been in the ward for a week.

"I don't know what you mean," replied the second.

"It's simple," replied the first.

"Were you sick when you came in here? Or did they make you sick when you got here?"

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After he retired as an airline pilot, my brother got his instructor's rating. He was in the cockpit with a student

after they had completed the "walkaround" and checklist, but the student seemed hesitant about pushing the throttle hard enough to get moving.

My brother pushed the throttle and they taxied across the tarmac.

The chief engineer charged out of the hangar and signaled vigorously at them. My brother, not understanding, waved back.

Just before he reached the end of the taxiway, he noticed the RPM gauge seemed rather high.

Just then the airport manager's car tore past him and parked across the runway. My brother shut down, got out and checked the plane. Attached to the tail was a tie-down rope still attached to its cement block.

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Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

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Heather and Marcy hadn't seen each other in awhile, so they decided to meet for lunch.

The talk naturally got around to their respective love lives. Marcy confided that there really wasn't anyone special in her life. Heather, on the other hand, was beaming about the new man she had found.

"He's perfect. He's handsome, and last night when we went out to dinner, he said the four little words I've been waiting to hear a man say to me!"

"He said 'will you marry me?'" Marcy asked.

Heather replied, "No, he said 'put your money away'."

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My wife and I were visiting my mother. My sisters, their husbands and many nieces and nephews had gathered at mom's house to welcome our newborn.

Suddenly, two of my nieces, both five, began to squabble over who'd get to hold the baby on their lap first. My mother, with her years of wisdom, suggested they sit side by side and both hold the baby.

Not to be outdone, one niece piped up and said, "Okay! But I want the end with the head on it!"

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Life is like an onion. You live it one layer at a time ... and sometimes you cry.

# Morning Breaks

Volume 12 Number 42

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October 20, 2013

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged for. Then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter.

"What are you doing?" his mom asked.

"The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," the boy explained. "I'm looking for the seal."



A young man had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was also the bishop, if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your scriptures a little, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it."

A month later the young man came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said, "Son, I'm real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your scriptures diligently, but you didn't get a haircut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!"

MapQuest really needs to start their directions on #5. I know how to get out of my neighborhood.

## Murphy's Laws for Parents

1. The tennis shoes you must replace today will go on sale next week.
2. Leakproof thermoses -- will.
3. The chances of a piece of bread falling with the grape jelly side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
4. The garbage truck will be two doors past your house when the argument over whose day it is to take out the trash ends.
5. The shirt your child must wear today will be the only one that needs to be washed or mended.

6. Gym clothes left at school in lockers mildew at a faster rate than other clothing.
7. The item your child lost, and must have for school within the next ten seconds, will be found in the last place you look.
8. Sick children recover miraculously when the pediatrician enters the treatment room.
9. Refrigerated items, used daily, will gravitate toward the back of the refrigerator.
10. Your chances of being seen by someone you know dramatically increase if you drive your child to school in your robe and curlers



A friend of mine is a deputy with the sheriff's department canine division.

One evening, the deputy was dispatched to the scene of a possible burglary, where he discovered the back door of a building ajar. He let the dog out of his patrol car gave the command to enter and seek.

Jumping from the back seat, the dog headed for the building. After lunging through the doorway, the dog froze and backed out. My friend was puzzled until he investigated further – on the building was the sign: "Veterinarian's Office."

My sister has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any home repair project.

For example, in her garage are pieces of a lawn mower she once tried to fix. So I wasn't surprised the day I

found her attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver.

"I can't get this thing to cooperate," she explained when she saw me.

I suggested, "Why don't you drag it out to the garage and show it the lawn mower?"

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A man comes up to the owner of a lumberjack business and says, "I need a job and I think I'm pretty good."

The owner replied, "Okay, show me what you can do, chop down that redwood over there." The man said okay and left. Five minutes later he came back and was done.

The owner was shocked and asked, "How did you chop that tree down so fast?"

The man said, "I got a lot of practice in the Sahara."

The owner replied, "You mean the Sahara desert?"

"Yes" he said, "or at least that's what they call it now."

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Salesperson trying to close the sale of a treadmill to a customer in the store: "Due to the space-age materials used in making this model, this one collects less dust than other exercise equipment."

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At a clearance sale, the wife of a federal district court judge found a green tie that was a perfect match for one of her husband's sports jackets.

Soon after, while the couple was vacationing at a resort complex to get his mind off a rather complicated cocaine conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the design of the tie.

The judge showed it to a local FBI agent, who was equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug' planted by the conspiracy defendants. The agent sent the device to FBI headquarters in Washington, DC for analysis.

Two weeks later, the judge phoned the Washington office to learn the results of their tests.

"We're not sure where the disc came from," the FBI told him, "but we discovered that when you press it, it plays 'Jingle Bells.'"

# Morning Breaks

Volume 12 Number 43

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October 27, 2013

I have five siblings, three sisters and two brothers.

One night I was chatting with my Mom about how she had changed as a mother from the first child to the last.

She told me she had mellowed a lot over the years:

"When your oldest sister coughed or sneezed, I called the ambulance.

When your youngest brother swallowed a dime, I just told him it was coming out of his allowance."

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Flying through the Midwest in the summer means one thing: turbulence.

I was working as a flight attendant on one particular light when we hit a patch of very rough air just after a young teen on his first flight, had entered the bathroom. After the bumps had subsided, he exited the bathroom, a look of sheer terror etched on his face.

"Are you all right?" I asked. "Don't worry, that turbulence was as bad as it gets."

"So that's what it was," he said. "I thought I'd pushed the wrong button."

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Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic"?

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Tom was so excited about his promotion to Vice President of the company he worked for and kept bragging about it to his wife for weeks on end.

Finally she couldn't take it any longer, and told him, "Listen, it means nothing, they even have a vice president of peas at the grocery store!"

"Really?" he said. Not sure if this was true or not, Tom decided to call the grocery store.

A clerk answers and Tom says, "Can I please talk to the Vice President of peas?"

The clerk replies, "Canned or frozen?"

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It was a cold winter day, the roads were icy and I was nearly frozen as I ran across Main Street, heading home for lunch.

I was almost at the sidewalk when I slipped and fell. I tried to get up, but slipped again. The traffic light was changing, and I frantically crawled to the curb on my hands and knees.

An elderly gentleman came over to help me. "You know," he scolded, "that's no way to cross the street."

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If it's free, it's advice;  
if you pay for it, it's counseling;  
If you can use either one, it's a miracle.

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About 90 fifth-graders piled into the airliner I was flying, on their way home from a school trip.

Once we were in the air, and the crew began serving drinks, I could hear them pleading with the children to settle down and let the other passengers get some sleep.

No amount of reasoning seemed to help, until I thought of the solution that actually worked.

I picked up the PA mike in the cockpit and announced, "Children, this is the captain speaking. Don't make me stop this airplane and come back there!"

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A friend of mine mentioned that she had an appointment with her son's Spanish-immersion kindergarten teacher. I knew that regular parent-teacher meetings were not due for a while, and when I asked if there was a problem, she related a conversation that she had with her son.

"Mom I can speak three languages now!" he said excitedly.

"Three?" she questioned.

"Yes" he replied proudly. "English, Spanish and Inappropriate."

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One of my credit cards was stolen but I decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than my wife.

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A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

His mother had an idea: "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your apartment for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy, and a week later, the woman came to dinner. His mother called the next day to see how things had gone.

"I was totally humiliated," he moaned. "She insisted on washing the dishes."

"What's wrong with that?" asked his mother.

"We hadn't started eating yet."

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The hesitant out-of-state driver, waiting for traffic to clear, came to a complete stop on a freeway ramp.

The traffic thinned but the intimidated driver still waited.

Finally an infuriated voice yelled from the car behind, "The sign says to YIELD, not give up."

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You can take a horse to water, but a pencil must be lead.