

Answers for FUNNY SAYINGS CARTOONS

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Print these pages and paste the answers onto the backs of the corresponding cards or use them as separate answer sheets.

Note: These provided answers are only suggestions—they are not “perfect” by any means. The majority of the information was gleaned from the Internet, and some phrases/sentences are direct quotes—without the specific site being references. Ethically, I should have given you ALL of these citations, but the space for them would have been much longer than the answers themselves, so I just omitted them. For mountains of additional information, check the Internet.

Answer for Card 1: A STIFF UPPER LIP (generally stated, “keep a stiff upper lip”) means that you should show no emotion when facing a difficult problem—usually for the purpose of hiding your true feelings about a situation. It is difficult to imagine doing anything else with a stiff upper lip (apart from keeping it). The expression is similar in meaning to “keep you chin up.” The humor in the cartoon relates to the literal size and natural “stiffness” of an elephant’s “lip.”

Answer for Card 2: A BLESSING IN DISGUISE is a reference to a situation when something *bad* has actually resulted in something *good*. An example is a student who must move to a new city (viewed as a bad situation) but finds a much better school/friend/house, etc. after the move. The “angel” character in this cartoon has put on a literal disguise and referred to himself as a “blessing.”

Answer for Card 3: YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER, BUT YOU CAN’T MAKE HIM DRINK means that it is relatively difficult to force someone to do something he really doesn’t want to do. You can supply everything he needs, but that does not mean he will accomplish the desired task. Jughead’s toy horse, of course, cannot drink—and at that point, Jughead remembers this expression.

Answer for Card 4: HIS BARK IS MUCH WORSE THAN HIS BITE generally means that someone **talks** as if he will be much meaner or tougher than he really **is**. A literal interpretation of this expression is demonstrated in this cartoon by showing a megaphone that would amplify the dog’s “bark.”

Answer for Card 5: THE HAND IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE refers to a line often spoken by magicians as part of their act, like “Now you see it, now you don’t.” The suggestion is that one cannot *see* as fast as the hand can *move* (although this isn’t necessarily true). Frank and Ernest are watching an actual eye and hand in a cartoon race—thus “proving” this old saying.

Answer for Card 6: DON’T ROCK THE BOAT is a request for someone not to make trouble or risk losing or upsetting something. In this cartoon Hagar literally meant that his crew shouldn’t rock the boat or they would tumble out into the water (which they did).

Answer for Card 7: OUT OF WHACK means not being up to par or not working properly. Loweezy literally means that her ax **is** out of whack after it broke—thus not allowing her any more “whacks” with it.

Answer for Card 8: PULLING YOUR LEG means trying to get someone to accept a ridiculous story as true. The little boy in the cartoon has had his “leg pulled” by his sister who convinced him of the ridiculous notion that there was a “Big Sister Day”—an act that resulted in her getting some presents.

Answer for Card 9: If someone asks, WHAT’S EATING YOU? that person generally wants to know why you are upset or what is bothering you. The word *eating* in this idiom may be substituted with *irritating* or *bothering*. In the cartoon, a pig is literally taking a bite of Jiggs’ leg.

Answer for Card 10: The suggestion of WALK A MILE IN (SOMEONE’S) SHOES means that you should try to understand that person’s problem before you offer criticism. It doesn’t mean that you should literally wear that person’s shoes and walk a distance in them, as is done in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 11: LOOK ON THE SUNNY SIDE means to try to find the **good** in a situation. It doesn’t literally mean that the sun has to be shining (although that can be positive). In this cartoon there is no sun, and the characters are making fun of the expression.

Answer for Card 12: DON'T CRY OVER SPILT MILK means that we shouldn't complain about something that has already happened. We shouldn't be unhappy about something that could not be helped. In this cartoon, though, the cats are quite happy over the "spilt milk" because they get to lap it up! *The origins of this saying are unclear, however, it most likely sprang from fairy lore. It was thought that to attract fairies to a house or to appease the resident sprites, laying out a "shrine" with food for the beings would work. Favorite fairy foods include wine, bread, fruit, and honey, but their absolute favorite is cold creamy milk. So whenever milk was spilled, it was considered an offering to the fairies, and its loss was discounted. Normally the wasting of food was strongly frowned upon because of the difficulty in feeding a family, but the wastage of milk was always overlooked as an offering. If the person spilling the milk was reprimanded, the scolder was seen as unwilling to give this gift, and would let it be given only grudgingly. This was thought to anger the fairies and bring bad luck upon the house.*

Answer for Card 13: SPLIT THE CHECK means that the people who are making a purchase will divide the amount in half—and each will pay half of the total amount. It doesn't mean that the actual check will literally be "split" in half as was shown in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 14: DRESSED FIT TO KILL means in a striking manner, spruced up, or spiffily turned out. In this cartoon Snuffy thinks the parson is "dressed for dinner" and intends to "kill" (eat up) the good food they have prepared for their own private meal.

Answer for Card 15: DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD generally means that one should not lose his ability to face, deal with, or think through a problem just because things seem difficult, complex, or stressful. The soldier (Lucky Eddie) thought Hagar meant the literal loss of his head—thus creating the humor in this cartoon. *Origin: This saying has historical significance when people were actually beheaded after they lost their good judgment and committed a crime.*

Answer for Card 16: WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO THE (PERSON) WHO HAS EVERYTHING is a question asked about a person who *seems* to have many worldly goods—enough, at least to perplex the giver. In this cartoon the medical man sees Hagar as "having everything," meaning he seemingly has every *disease* and *ailment*. He is therefore wondering what *medicine* should be given to Hagar.

Answer for Card 17: NO STRINGS ATTACHED generally means without obligation—especially hidden ones. However, a parachute without real strings would not be of much value, therefore causing the funny situation on this cartoon. *Origin: A **string** means, among other things, a cord for leading an animal (especially a horse) and is therefore found in a number of additional expressions having to do with the exercise of control, such as **string along** (join the "string" of horses; i.e., accompany, often reluctantly; mislead); **pulling strings** (exercising influence—possibly originating with puppetry); **holding the purse-strings** (controlling the spending); and **on a shoestring** (a tight budget).*

Answer for Card 18: (SOMEONE) ALWAYS COMES THROUGH WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN usually means that someone has the ability to perform well even at a difficult time. However, the interpretation was literal in this cartoon—with potato **chips** actually being **down** on the floor. *Origin: "Chips are down" refers to bleak times, and it is also a gambling expression. In gambling, chips are used for money; if you're winning, you have a lot of them; if you're "down" on your luck (chips), you don't have many chips.*

Answer for Card 19: SHE/HE IS MAKING A PIG OF HER/HIMSELF is the actual saying that has been twisted in this cartoon. Snuffy and Loweezy are observing Geranium, their pig, who reminds them of some of the *people* they have observed with bad table manners—thus making themselves look like "pigs" when they are eating.

Answer for Card 20: THROUGH THICK AND THIN is a reference to all of the good times (thick) and all of the bad times (thin) combined. Snuffy interprets this literally as he observed that the ledge is too "thin" for him to cross the mountain. *Origin: The 'thick' and the 'thin' seem to have referred originally to the conditions encountered by a rider on a horse, who passed through thickets of wood and through areas where the growth is sparse or thin. The phrase is ancient enough to have appeared in **The Exeter Book**, which is nearly 1,000 years old—and in Chaucer's **Canterbury Tales**.*

Answer for Card 21: TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME means to tackle a problem one small step at a time without trying to complete the entire task or solve a big problem all at once. The literal meaning is given to the sloppy calendar maker in this cartoon, who is then given the advice to take (draw) just one "calendar day" at a time.

Answer for Card 22: **THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD** currently refers to a sound (shot) that is so loud (or that makes a major impact) that the event is “heard” worldwide. In this cartoon Snuffy’s doctor gave the “shot.” *Origin: The expression originated in Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Concord Hymn, 1837, and relates to the start of the American Revolutionary War: “By the rude bridge that arched the flood/Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled/Here once the embattled farmers stood/And fired the shot heard ‘round the world.” On April 19, 1775, on Lexington Square (Lexington is between Boston and Concord), the British Major John Pitcairn and his six light Infantry companies faced about seventy colonial militiamen. The details of the ensuing skirmish, especially concerning who fired the first shot, are disputed. What is clear is that this was “the shot heard ‘round the world.” The phrase has been continued with various references in America. In the sporting context there are some less significant events that the phrase has been used for (although some sports fans might argue differently): In golf: Gene Sarazen’s double-eagle 2 at the Masters Tournament, 1935; and in baseball: Bobby Thomson’s 1951 walk-off home run that won the National League for the New York Giants. More recently the phrase has been used to describe Dick Cheney’s accidental shooting of Harry Whittington in a hunting accident, which was seen as an embarrassment for the Bush administration.*

Answer for Card 23: **LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES IN THE SAME PLACE TWICE** means that if something unfortunate happens, it usually won’t happen again in exactly the same way. In this cartoon Priscilla’s mom jokes with her dad about his hammer not striking the same place twice (implying that he is not a good carpenter). *Note: It isn’t literally true that lightning **can’t** strike in the same place twice, although it is very rare.*

Answer for Card 24: **GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF** means to make an effort to control your emotions and behave more calmly. In this cartoon Zero interprets the comment literally and tries to “grip” himself.

Answer for Card 25: **DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS** means that each individual person has a slightly different way of doing things and that one person’s method might be just as good as another’s. However, if different people are literally trying to paddle a boat in different directions, the situation might be humorous (or frustrating)—as is shown in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 26: **A FOOL AND HIS MONEY ARE SOON PARTED** means that people who aren’t careful with their money often lose it quickly. In this cartoon Wilberforce questions the concept of a “fool” even having money in the first place. *Origin: There are numerous examples in history and literature whereby someone with money wasted it foolishly—thus promoting this saying.*

Answer for Card 27: **DON’T BUY A PIG IN A POKE** means that we shouldn’t take an action without knowing as much about it as possible. We shouldn’t purchase or buy something without first seeing what it is. In this cartoon Lucky Eddie actually did purchase a real pig in a poke. *Origin: This expression originating in the Late Middle Ages when meat was scarce but rats and cats were plentiful. The scheme entailed the sale of a “suckling pig” in a “poke” (bag). The wriggling bag actually contained a cat, not particularly prized as a source of meat, which was then sold unopened to the victim.*

Answer for Card 28: **KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT** refers to the time when men wore hats regularly, and it wasn’t unusual for them to put important things inside. To keep something under a hat was to keep it out of sight and shown to no one. Currently this expression is just a sly way of saying keep it in your head, or keep it to yourself. The small character in this cartoon is interpreting the saying literally and comments that doing such isn’t possible because of the size of his hat.

Answer for Card 29: **YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE** is an expression used by many people as an excuse for messing up their lives (by doing unhealthy things such as drinking too much or doing drugs). Their attitude is, “Hey, we don’t have but one life, so I’ll do what ‘I’ want”—with the emphasis on the ‘I’ and often without regard to how their actions affect others. In this cartoon Hagar asks his team to stop saying this expression as they engage in their battle.

Answer for Card 30: **IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN** means don’t give up too easily; persistence pays off in the end. The humor in this cartoon relates to the fact that if the first jump isn’t successful, there will be no more opportunities to try again (because of the plunge into the valley if the jump didn’t turn out to be successful). *Origin: This was originally a maxim used to encourage American schoolchildren to do their homework. Thomas H. Palmer (1782-1861) wrote in his **Teacher’s Manual**: “Tis a lesson you should heed, try, try again. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” The saying was popularized by Edward Hickson (1803-70) in his “Moral Song” (1857) and is now applicable to any kind of activity.*

Answer for Card 31: A WATCHED POT NEVER BOILS refers to the fact that when we constantly and continuously “watch” for something to happen, it seems as if it never does happen. In her case the pot “boiled” just as she turned her head—thus supporting the meaning of the expression. A pot will, in fact, boil even if you watch, but it will SEEM to take forever, and that is really the point of this amusing proverb. So if you must wait for something to happen, take your mind off the waiting by doing something else. It’s amazing how much faster “the pot” seems to reach a boil under these circumstances.

Answer for Card 32: GOOD FOR NOTHING is a term to describe a person who has little worth or usefulness. In this cartoon Beetle asks Sarge what his aptitude test showed he was “good for”—prompting Sarge to reply with this expression. *Note: Everybody is good for something—at times it is harder to determine what that might be with some folks, but we should try.*

Answer for Card 33: TAKE A STAB AT IT means to try or attempt something. Sample: I haven’t made an apple pie before, but I have a recipe and I’ll take a stab at it. That doesn’t mean that the cook will “stab” the recipe or the pie. In this cartoon, though, an actual knife was used to demonstrate the literal interpretation of the expression. *Origin: The phrase likely originated with the sport of hunting. After an animal is hit by a bullet or arrow, the hunter may poke it with a long stick or arrow to make certain the animal is dead, thus taking a stab at it.*

Answer for Card 34: CUT IT OUT means to stop what you are doing. Example: Tom was repeatedly bouncing the ball on the back of his mother’s chair, and she told him to “cut it out” (meaning he had better quit bouncing the ball immediately). It does NOT mean to use a pair of scissors and “cut” something literally, as is shown in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 35: SEARCH ME is a slang expression that you can say if you don’t have the slightest idea how to answer a question. Example: A boy asks his sister what kind of car just passed them on the road, and she responds, “Search me” (because she doesn’t have a clue). In this cartoon Wilberforce takes the expression literally and “searches” for fleas on his dad.

Answer for Card 36: IN A NUTSHELL means giving only the briefest summary of a situation. Example: I didn’t have time to watch the game, so describe it to me in a nutshell (meaning give me a quick description). In this cartoon the Pierpoint (the tiny porcupine) thought that Gunther believed Pierpoint was literally living in a tiny nutshell. *Origin: This hyperbolic expression can be traced to the Roman writer Pliny’s description of Homer’s **Iliad** being copied in such tiny handwriting that it could fit into a nutshell. For a time the expression referred to anything compressed, but from the 1500s on it referred mainly to written or spoken words.*

Answer for Card 37: A SIGN OF THE TIMES refers to the characteristics of what is happening today. It doesn’t mean there is a literal “sign,” as is shown in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 38: GET OFF MY BACK means to stop criticizing, nagging, or pestering me. When Baby Tater continues to pester his mom in this cartoon, she finally gets him “off her back” by putting him “in her lap.”

Answer for Card 39: WAIT ON TABLES simply means to serve food. It doesn’t literally mean to “wait” for awhile while sitting a table, as is depicted in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 40: IF YOU DON’T LIKE IT, YOU CAN LUMP IT is a response for someone who does not like a certain situation, thing or occasion and complains about it. For example, if a mother buys her daughter an expensive pair of tennis shoes, but her daughter wanted a different brand, the mother might respond, “If you don’t like it, you can lump it.” In the cartoon, the literal interpretation is given when Lukey’s wife “lumped” him with a skillet after their argument. *Origin: In 1864 Charles Dickens used the expression, “If you don’t like it, it’s open to you to lump it.” The “lump” version was adopted from the US, where it had been current for at least a generation.*

Answer for Card 41: ON THE LEVEL refers to the fact that someone is being completely honest. These characters in the cartoon, however, referred to how *level* an object might be in the literal sense.

Answer for Card 42: ON EDGE describes someone who is excited, nervous, or impatient. Example: She was on edge until the doctor returned her call (meaning that she was pacing back and forth until she received her medical information). In this cartoon the daughter is keeping her mother on edge by being good—a behavior that is not typical of her.

Answer for Card 43: GO FOR means someone has a special liking for something. In this cartoon Sarge indicated that he could “go for” (meaning that he craved) a malt dessert—then he forced Beetle to “go for” it (travel to get it)—thus incorporating both the figurative and literal meanings of this phrase.

Answer for Card 44: SEE (THE WORLD) THROUGH (MY) EYES is similar to the expression in cartoon 10, “Walk a mile in (someone’s) shoes.” It doesn’t literally refer to one’s “eyeballs,” as the cartoon suggests.

Answer for Card 45: STAND BEHIND (SOMETHING) means to approve, support, or guarantee the quality of the object in question. It doesn’t literally mean that a person is “standing” near the “rear” of the item, as is suggested in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 46: PAINTING YOURSELF IN A CORNER means placing yourself in an impossible position. An example is a person who tells one friend that she will go to a movie with him on Saturday night—but tells a different friend that she will attend his party at the same time. This saying doesn’t have anything to do with “paint,” as the cartoon suggests (although it is certainly possible to literally paint oneself in a corner, as Beetle has done).

Answer for Card 47: PUT AWAY has several meanings, one of which is to “put food in your stomach.” Example: He surely did put away that bag of fries (meaning he ate them quickly). In this cartoon Loweezy wanted Snuffy to “put away” (meaning to place them on their proper shelves) rather than to eat (put away) the food she had just bought.

Answer for Card 48: UNDER THE WEATHER is a colloquial expression meaning that someone is sick (such as having the flu). If this phrase is interpreted literally, then someone could be under a rain cloud, as is Beetle in this cartoon. *Origin: This phrase came from British sailing ships. When a sailor became ill, he was confined below deck, out of the weather. It was thus said that he was “under the weather.”*

Answer for Card 49: PASS THE BUCK means to make another person decide something or accept a responsibility or give orders—instead of doing it yourself. You pass the buck when you place the blame on someone else. Example: Sarah said she couldn’t do her homework because her little brother’s friends were making too much noise for her to concentrate. She was passing the buck (instead of taking responsibility for not getting her work completed, she blamed her brother). There is no “buck” (dollar) passed, as is suggested in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 50: IF YOU CAN’T BEAT THEM, JOIN THEM refers to a situation when you realize that you aren’t going to “win” or get what you want—so the solution is to join the opposing forces so you can be on the “winning” side. In this cartoon Loweezy finally decides she can’t force the mule to do what she wants (the mule wants to rest), so she gives in and takes a rest with the mule. Notice how she has slightly changed the wording of this expression.

Answer for Card 51: THE COWARD’S WAY OUT describes an action that is weak and indefensible. Example: Ann took the coward’s way out and withdrew from the contest because Meg’s brother might cause physical harm to Ann if she won instead of Meg. This expression doesn’t have a literal reference to a “door” (a way out) for a “coward” as is shown in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 52: SMALL TALK refers to light, informal, sometimes meaningless conversation, generally during social occasions. It doesn’t mean that the voice or the words are “small,” as the cartoon suggests.

Answer for Card 53: THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE describes a situation when we are not satisfied with what we have and we want to be somewhere else—a place that seems better (“greener”) than where we are. Example: Bill’s dad is always changing jobs because the grass always looks greener to him on the other side of the fence (meaning that the “new” job always seems better to him than the one he currently has). The humor in this cartoon rests in the fact that there is hardly any grass at all on the other side of the fence.

Answer for Card 54: AT THE DROP OF A HAT means not having to wait; immediately; promptly.

Example: If you need me to help with the party, call me at the drop of a hat (meaning I will come over just as soon as you call). It doesn't literally mean that a hat will be dropped (as is done in the cartoon).

Origin: This saying is from the American West, where it was occasionally the practice to signal the start of a fight or a race by dropping a hat or sweeping it downward while holding it in the hand. The quick signaling response found its way into the language to describe any action that begins quickly without much need for prompting.

Answer for Card 55: IN THE DOGHOUSE means that someone is in disfavor with another. Example: I forgot my friend's birthday, so I'm in the doghouse with her now. It doesn't literally mean that someone is physically inside a house for a dog, as the cartoon suggests. *Origin: This expression came from the old custom of banishing a bad dog outside to its doghouse. It also comes from a railroad term dating back to the era of steam locomotives. The railroad unions mandated that a head-end (front of the train) brakeman be so positioned. However, there was no room for another person in the engine cab (which already housed the engineer and fireman). The railroads then built a small windowed shelter on top of the engine tender (where the coal and water were stored) behind the engine. It was called a doghouse since it was small, cramped, smoky, cold, and generally miserable. Thus, the expression "he's in the doghouse" referred to the brakeman in his uncomfortable moving shack.*

Answer for Card 56: PUT A LID ON IT is another way of saying keep the noise down. It doesn't mean to put an actual "lid" on anything, as the cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 57: SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK is a proverb advising the tactic of caution and non-aggression, backed up by the ability to use force if required. It doesn't mean that a real "stick" is required, as is suggested in the cartoon. *Origin: The widespread use of this proverb began with American president Theodore Roosevelt. In a speech in Chicago in April 1903, he said, "There is a homely old adage which runs: 'Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.' If the American nation will speak softly, and yet build and keep at a pitch of the highest training a thoroughly efficient navy, the Munroe Doctrine will go far."*

Answer for Card 58: NICE GUYS FINISH LAST is an axiom used in business to suggest that people often think about themselves first instead of being "nice" to others in the work place; ruthless tactics succeed more than kindness. In the cartoon "finishing last" humorously refers to finishing a meal (rather than finishing a competition in which the "order" matters). *Origin: This statement is generally ascribed to baseball manager Leo Durocher, (1905-1991) whose fiery style earned him the nickname "The Lip." He led three teams into the World Series: the 1941 Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost to the New York Yankees; the 1951 New York Giants, who lost to the Yankees; and the 1954 Giants, who swept the Cleveland Indians. The idea in this axiom is an ancient one. "More nice than wise" appeared in John Ray's proverb collection of 1670.*

Answer for Card 59: A MONKEY'S UNCLE refers to someone unexpected, undesirable, surprising, or outrageous. In the cartoon, Sarge and Beetle viewed General Halftrack as "outrageous." The expression frequently is worded, "I'll be a monkey's uncle." *Origin: The publication of Darwin's theory of evolution in the "Descent of Man" was greeted with derision and a great deal of skepticism. The idea that man is related by a common ancestor to apes and monkeys was considered the most outrageous of the claims. "I'll be a monkey's uncle" was originally a sarcastic remark by a non-believer of Darwin's theory and was intended to ridicule the theory of evolution.*

Answer for Card 60: THE CATCH OF THE DAY is a fishing expression used in many restaurants referring to what the fishermen have been able to catch that day (and get to the restaurant in time to be served). It doesn't literally mean to "catch" it (like tossing an item to someone) as the cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 61: USE YOUR HEAD means to think, to use your brain, or to use common sense. It doesn't suggest that one should actually place his "head" in a particular position in order to physically accomplish something, as the cartoon suggests with the item that Lucky Eddie typically wears on his head.

Answer for Card 62: AFRAID TO SHOW (MY) FACE means afraid to make an appearance or to be seen. Example: She would be ashamed to show her face after what she did to her classmates. It doesn't mean that one's face should literally be hidden, as Elviney has done in this cartoon by covering her "face" with a mask.

Answer for Card 63: DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH is a proverb that warns us not to plan (count on) something that is dependent upon a future action (hatched chickens); it suggests that we wait until the future event actually happens. *Origin: This proverb likely originated with the fable "The Milkmaid and her Pail," generally attributed to Aesop. In the story a woman is carrying a basket of eggs. While she is walking, she begins to think about how many chicks she will soon have, how much money she'll make by selling the chicks, the things she'll buy with all the money, etc. As she is thinking about all this, she drops the basket of eggs! Result? The woman is left with no eggs and no chicks. Hence the expression, "don't count your chickens before they hatch."*

Answer for Card 64: MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES means you should be careful how much money you spend because there is only a limited amount. If you run out of money, there isn't a "seed" (or something you can plant) to "grow" any more. Therefore, budget your money wisely. In the cartoon, Born Loser's boss (who LOVES money) doesn't even bother to plant trees...because he knows "money can't grow on them."

Answer for Card 65: BUTTER (ME) UP means that someone is trying to gain a favor or hoping to advance through flattery or pleasantness. You might have heard something like, "You'd better butter him up before you ask him if you can borrow some money." Because "buttering up" generally results in flattery and "compliments," the boss in this Frank and Ernest cartoon *wants* to be buttered up.

Answer for Card 66: MONEY TALKS is an expression used to convey the idea that people with money have power and influence over others. Money literally doesn't "talk," as the cartoon suggests. *Origin: This saying can be traced back to G. Torriano's Italian Proverbs (1666). It was first attested in the United States in the Saturday Evening Post (September 3, 1903), and it continued on through more modern instances. In 1980 the FBI pulled off its first major sting operation aimed at members of Congress, using front men posing as Arab businessmen willing to bribe any members of Congress (Senators and Representatives) willing to accept it for doing favors. They nabbed half a dozen, with the cameras rolling. One of them was Michael Myers, Congressman from South Philly (a place with a distinctive accent and a distinctive way of talking), who urged the "businessmen" to cut to the chase with the words. He spent a few years in jail, but eventually was released.*

Answer for Card 67: PUT ON (YOUR) FACE is a way of saying that make-up is going to be applied. The expression hints that the new face will be different from the unmade one. A comment you might have heard frequently is, "I'm ready to go just as soon as I put on my face" (meaning I must put on my make-up and then I'll be ready). That's what is happening in this cartoon, but young Tater isn't old enough to understand what his mom means, so he envisions her with a mask.

Answer for Card 68: THERE ARE SOME THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY is often combined with another expression, "Money can't buy happiness." Both carry the meaning that money isn't the answer to all of people's needs. In this cartoon Wilberforce doesn't seem to understand what his dad is trying to tell him; thus he asks about credit cards.

Answer for Card 69: MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES is the same expression used in cartoon 64, only the humor is depicted in a different manner. In this cartoon Snuffy actually does find some money "growing" in a tree, although it was his wife's supposedly hidden butter-and-egg money. The repeat of this expression was intentional for the purpose of showing how different cartoonists view an expression of humor.

Answer for Card 70: AT THE HEAD OF (MY) CLASS has both a literal and figurative meaning in this cartoon. If someone is at the "head" of his academic class, it means that he has the highest grades. If the school someone has attended is Barber school, then the "head" refers to humans (on which hair grows)—thus the humor in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 71: FROG IN (HIS) THROAT refers to temporary hoarseness caused by phlegm in the back of the throat. The sounds one makes with this condition might be similar to that which a frog makes when it croaks. It doesn't literally mean that someone has a real frog in his throat, as the cartoon implies. *Origin: This expression was used in the USA since the late 19th century. The earliest print reference found was from an advertisement for a proprietary medicine that adopted the term as its name, in The Stevens Point Journal, November 1894: "The Taylor Bros. say that 'Frog in the Throat' [the name of the product] will cure hoarseness. 10 cents a box." In December of the following year, The Middletown Daily Argus ran a similar advert for a rival product: "Throat Lozenges - Our own formula for 'frog in the throat' - tickling - cough - hoarseness, etc. 10C a box."*

Answer for Card 72: **PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS** asks you to demonstrate your commitment. Don't just talk about what you think *should* be done, but commit money (or time or effort) to *make it happen*. In this cartoon Frank discovers a different meaning of this saying: going to a dentist forces you to use your money for your "mouth." *Origin: It is possible that the original meaning referred to betting. For example, if you think a horse is so great, then wager that the horse will win—in that way, you are putting your money where your mouth is. Today the expression has a broader meaning beyond gambling. If you talk about animal rights, for example, and donate your time and money to your local animal shelter, then you are putting your money where your mouth is (i.e., supporting what you say with your efforts and money).*

Answer for Card 73: **THAT ABOUT WRAPS IT UP** means that the topic or issue has come to a conclusion or a summary ending. Thus, the topic, task, or project is over. It doesn't have a connection with "wrapping paper" or "wrapped with bandages," as this cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 74: **COOL OFF** means to become quiet or calm, especially after a state of frustration or agitation. It typically doesn't refer to "temperature" (although we sometimes feel "warmer" when we are angry or frustrated). In this cartoon Beetle is literally planning to cool off Cookie (who is on the roof) with a water hose.

Answer for Card 75: **HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE** means that someone *sounds* more frightening or aggressive than he really is. You might have heard something like, "Our homeroom teacher growls at us every day, but his bark is worse than his bite" (meaning that the teacher yells at us a lot, but he would do us no harm). In this cartoon Snuffy has twisted the commonly spoken words to "his wag is wuss (worse) than his bark."

Answer for Card 76: **THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM** means that a person who gets up early in the morning has the best chance of succeeding; if one arrives early or is quicker, that person gets ahead of others. Although this expression now is used figuratively, there is much literal truth in "bird land." In this cartoon Dagwood reacts in a literal way by indicating he might not like "worms"—but would wait for dessert.

Answer for Card 77: **PARTY OF TWO (OR OTHER NUMBER)** doesn't actually mean that there will be a party with only two people attending. This is a term widely used by restaurants to communicate how many people will be dining in a specific group. Example: The hostess at Outback continues to page "the Wilson party of two" to let them know their table was ready. This saying had a special humorous significance on Noah's Ark in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 78: **LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES THE SAME PLACE TWICE** means that if something unfortunate happens, it usually won't happen again in exactly the same way. In this cartoon there is a twist on the words of this expression because the dog's name is "Lightnin'." *Note: This same expression is used in cartoon 23, but with a different level of humor.*

Answer for Card 79: **TAKE UP SPACE** literally means to occupy a portion of the tangible space in an identified area. "Take up" can also mean to begin or start something, such as a hobby or studying a new topic. These two different meanings have resulted in the humor in the cartoon—when Wilberforce has announced that he wants to take up (study) "space" (as a topic) and Hurricane Hattie followed by reminding him that he already "occupies space" in his first grade classroom.

Answer for Card 80: **BREAKNECK SPEED** means that something will happen very fast. However, it doesn't mean that anyone's neck will be broken, as the cartoon suggests with the brace for the neck. *Note: The fact that this expression isn't typically used literally doesn't mean that you can't actually break your neck when "speeding" too fast.*

Answer for Card 81: **IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT A PERSON, DON'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL** is a proverb that is practiced by wise individuals. We have all met people who have needed to let others know anything and everything *bad* they have heard about others—but that generally results in negative reactions (although folks love to hear gossip). This cartoon offers a funny ending for this oft-quoted proverb.

Answer for Card 82: COLD SNAP means a brief time of quick change from warm weather to cold. Example: The recent cold snap killed everything in the garden (meaning the short period of unexpected cold weather caused the garden plants to die). In this cartoon the word “cold” refers to the medical condition (instead of the weather). Also, the word “snap” has an entirely different meaning—thus creating a humorous situation.

Answer for Card 83: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT is a common expression that gives someone a choice of accepting or rejecting an offer without changes or questions about it. In this cartoon the word “take” has a different meaning—that of “taking dictation” (to put on paper the words that are dictated). Miss Buxley gives the fluff response (to which her older assistant has an entirely different reaction).

Answer for Card 84: HOLD THE ICE doesn’t actually mean to “hold” the ice in one’s hand, as is implied in this cartoon. Instead, when the request “hold the ice” is made (generally referring to beverages), it means to HOLD OFF putting ice cubes into the actual drink.

Answer for Card 85: SUNNY-SIDE UP refers to eggs that are fried on only ONE side so that the yolk remains intact and uppermost. This type of frying transfers the appearance of the sun to that of an egg yolk. In this cartoon Frank used those words as a contrast to the apparent mood of the short-order cook.

Answer for Card 86: A FOOL AND HIS MONEY ARE SOON PARTED means that people who aren’t careful with their money often lose it quickly. This is the same expression used in cartoon 26, but the level of thinking is different in this one. The “fool” is the character who was charged \$25.00 for a “sooth”—only to learn that he himself was an example of the fool in the saying shared by the soothsayer.

Answer for Card 87: THROW EVERYTHING YOU’VE GOT INTO IT means that you need to give the project or task all of your energies, talents, and resources for the outcome to be a success. It doesn’t necessitate “throwing” at all. In this cartoon the literal meaning of the expression was used when the cook put all of the leftover food items (everything you’ve got) into the stew.

Answer for Card 88: OUT OF SORTS describes someone who is in an angry or unhappy mood, mildly unwell, not in the usual health or state of mind, of bad temper, or grouchy. Example: Our neighbor was out of sorts and wouldn’t even wave at us this morning (meaning the neighbor was too grouchy to be friendly). In this cartoon the mother has been dealing with “sorting” many different types of things (such as paperwork and laundry), thus causing the son to respond with this saying. *Origin: Since at least the 17th century “sorts” has been the name of the letters used by typographers. In early days (before computers and modern print technology), typesetters had to take out a metal letter for each character to be printed. To type the word dog, for example, a “d,” an “o,” and a “g” had to be removed from the box of metal characters and placed in a fixed tray in the proper order. To be “out of sorts” would clearly be a problem for a typesetter. You can only imagine the problem if the box of “sorts” were toppled and spilled on the floor.*

Answer for Card 89: A WATCHED POT DOESN’T BOIL refers to the fact that when we constantly “watch” for something to happen, it seems as if it never does happen. In this cartoon Wilberforce continues to stand and watch the pot until it **does** boil—thus proving the expression to be “incorrect.” Contrast this with cartoon 31.

Answer for Card 90: WORKING (YOUR) FINGERS TO THE BONE means to work and labor very hard and intensely, often to the point of becoming thin and weak. Many parents have often said something like, “I worked my fingers to the bone to make sure my children got an education” (meaning they sacrificed and worked much harder than usual so their children could go to college). In this cartoon Helga’s husband (Hagar) interpreted her remark literally, and he plans to buy her some gloves to help protect her “bony fingers.”

Answer for Card 91: OVER THE HILL describes someone past the peak of youthful vigor and freshness, far along in life, or old. Example: My Great Aunt Maggie is over the hill (meaning she is “old” in the eyes of the youngster). In the cartoon Frank is bemoaning the fact that he is already “over the hill” without having enjoyed the pleasures of being “at the top.” *Origin: This expression began as a military reference to a journey over a “hill.” Once you reach the top of the hill and begin your journey down, you have past the midpoint and are on the downside or decline (over the hill). With age, once you have passed your peak, you are on the downside.*

Answer for Card 92: The two expressions implied in this cartoon are **THAT’S BULL** and **LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP**. The first expression means that whatever has been said is regarded as completely impossible, unthinkable, or untrue. Example: When I told Sean I made a grade of 100 on the advanced chemistry test, he said, “That’s bull” (meaning he simply didn’t believe me and thought what I was exaggerating). The second expression refers to someone who is extremely clumsy or to someone who upsets other people’s plans. Example: Spending time in her living room, with its delicate furniture and knickknacks, made him feel like a bull in a china shop (because he was so clumsy that he felt he might damage some of her belongings). In this cartoon Pierpoint (the small porcupine) has confused the second expression and used the word *bear* instead of *bull*. When Gunther tried to correct the word in the expression to *bull*, Pierpoint misunderstood and thought Gunther simply didn’t believe what he was telling him.

Answer for Card 93: **OUT OF THE WOODS** means that one is at last free of trouble or danger, secure, or in the clear. Example: We were gradually getting deeper in debt, but after receiving the church gift, we are now out of the woods (meaning they are finally able to get out of debt and will be free and clear of their earlier money troubles). This expression has no literal connection with “woods” as is implied in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 94: **TAKE (SOMEONE) FOR A RIDE** has many different means, the most common of which means to take unfair advantage of or to fool someone for personal gain. Example: Mary continued to take her boss for a ride until he read the email messages she had sent to the other employees (meaning that Mary really had her boss fooled until he saw the evidence for himself). In this cartoon Ernie has confused the expression “take someone for a ride” with “go for a ride,” which has a different meaning.

Answer for Card 95: **KNOW THYSELF** means to become comfortable with yourself, to walk in your own truth—so you can feel at peace with yourself. In this cartoon “Dr. Ernie” offers the advice to “know thyself,” but he humorously adds “don’t tell anyone.”

Answer for Card 96: Two expressions are in this cartoon. **IT COST AN ARM AND A LEG** means the price was exceedingly high. The second expression, **IT’S A STEAL**, means it’s **SO** cheap (you’re getting such a good price) that you almost feel as if you were stealing it. It doesn’t mean that one is literally breaking the law by stealing something. When the expression was used in this cartoon, Lucky Eddie volunteered that the palace was actually stolen. *Origin: Three suggested origins of the first expression: It might have come from another slang phrase, “If it costs a leg!” This was apparently a phrase used by desperados who were after revenge—even at the cost of a leg. Another explanation relates to the phrase “to chance one’s arm”—of army origin and means to do something at great risk in hopes of reward or profit. The risk would be the loss of rank which (in the case of a non commissioned officer) would be worn upon the sleeve. So someone would be risking losing a stripe from his arm. Another thought is from the 1800s. When people commissioned portraits, it would have been a lot cheaper to have a painting done of just your head and shoulders. To get your whole body painted would have been many times more expensive—thus to cost an arm and a leg. Could Hagar have risked an arm and a leg for the palace in this cartoon?*

Answer for Card 97: **GO PLACES** means to advance in life, to be promoted, or to make steady and significant progress. Example: Marge is really going places now that she has received her second promotion. When used as the figurative expression, it doesn’t refer to actual travel or physical movement. In this cartoon the employee will literally get to “go places” because he has been fired and must clean out his desk (and “go home”).

Answer for Card 98: **KEEP AN EYE ON (HER)** means to watch someone or “keep tabs” on another person. It doesn’t mean that an actual “eye” should be “kept” on someone. In this cartoon the jeep driver will be more than happy to “keep watch over” Miss Buxley because he is smitten with her.

Answer for Card 99: **BEING BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN (HIS) MOUTH** means that he was born into a wealthy family. There was no actual “spoon” in the newborn’s mouth, though, as is literally suggested in this cartoon. *Origin: This is commonly thought to be an English phrase referring to the British aristocracy. Medieval spoons were usually made of wood. “Spoon” was also the name of a chip or splinter of wood and it is likely that is how the table utensils derived their name. It has been a tradition in many countries for wealthy godparents to give a silver spoon to their godchildren at christening ceremonies. That **may** be the source of the phrase, or it may simply be derived from the fact that wealthy people ate from silver while others didn’t.*

Answer for Card 100: LOTS OF FISH IN THE SEA means that there are many, many choices to the question or problem. Example: Sammy doesn't have to invite Cheryl to the prom because there are lots of fish in the sea (meaning there are many other girls he could invite instead of Cheryl). In this cartoon Wilberforce interprets the expression literally and thinks it means there are other types of "fish" instead of understanding what Hurricane Hattie is trying to tell him.

Answer for Card 101: HAND IT TO (HER/HIM/THEM) means that credit should be given to the person(s) in question. In this cartoon, however, Thornapple (the Born Loser) literally meant that things would have to be handed to "her" because she could not reach for anything on her own (without having arms).

Answer for Card 102: FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND is someone who is always there for you when times are *good* but becomes quite scarce when a problem arises (or will completely desert you in times of trouble). This saying doesn't technically relate to the "weather," as is suggested in the cartoon when Elviney leaves Loweezy's house as it begins to rain.

Answer for Card 103: A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES is a welcome visitor or someone you are glad to see. It doesn't relate to one's "optical" functions, as the cartoon suggests. *Origin: Jonathan Swift first recorded this phrase in A complete collection of genteel and ingenious conversation, 1738: "The Sight of you is good for sore Eyes." Over the years, Swift's words have been shortened, with most speakers redacting the "good for," and turning the idiom into "a sight for sore eyes," with the meaning remaining the same. There are a few exceptions; some people use the term in the negative, suggesting that the sight in question actually brings about sore eyes. However, this reversal of the conventional meaning of a sight for sore eyes is relatively rare, and usually clear from context. This expression also has Biblical connections: The word "sore," in this particular case, refers to being tense, fearful, worried, or sorrowful. While this meaning of the word in English is no longer widespread, during the time of the King James Bible, it was a commonly accepted usage. Since the King James Bible was one of the earliest official translations of the Bible into English, it can be assumed that many of the word usages in the Bible reflected common usage, since the intent was to make the Bible accessible for all. During this period, many people wrote and spoke of things like being "sore afraid," for "extremely afraid." Also note that the spelling of "sight" is changed to "site" in cases where there is a humorous reference to a place instead of vision.*

Answer for Card 104: A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR means that the just-mentioned topic/item is something altogether separate and different. Example: I thought Sam was her boyfriend but it turned out that he is her brother, and that's a horse of a different color. *Origin: Horses are registered at birth and the registration includes a record of their color. When a horse is sold, the registration is also transferred. Sometimes the color recorded on the registration may not match the actual color of the horse, thus leading one to suspect the horse is not the one in the registration. An older explanation is that this term probably derives from a phrase coined by Shakespeare, who wrote "a horse of that color" (Twelfth Night, 2:3), meaning "the same matter" rather than a different one. By the mid-1800s the term was used to point out difference rather than likeness.*

Answer for Card 105: OFF (MY) NOODLE means that someone has become mentally unstable, weird, insane, or very strange. It doesn't have a connection with "pasta" as the cartoon suggests. Example: Barry went completely off his noodle when Sally broke up with him (meaning he really "lost it" after the split).

Answer for Card 106: MAKING MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS means that someone has taken something small and unnecessarily turned it into something huge—or that an argument has been started over nothing. Example: Michelle made a mountain out of a molehill when she saw that her little brother was served a bigger piece of pie (meaning that the difference in pie size was insignificant, but Michelle just couldn't let it go). This expression doesn't literally relate to actual "mountains" as the cartoon suggests.

Answer for Card 107: GET OFF MY BACK means to stop criticizing, stop complaining about people, or leave them alone. Example: If he criticizes you again, tell him to get off your back (meaning that you should tell him to leave you alone). It doesn't actually refer to the physical part of one's body, as the cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 108: MONEY TALKS is an expression used to convey the idea that people with money have power and influence over others. Money literally doesn't "talk," as Lucky Eddie is exploring in this cartoon. This is the same expression used in cartoon 66 (which also gives the origin).

Answer for Card 109: KNOCKING OVER A BANK is a euphemism meaning to rob a bank. It doesn't literally mean to "topple over" the building with force (such as a car being driven into the building in this cartoon).

Answer for Card 110: If you're HOT UNDER THE COLLAR, it means you are very angry or extremely exasperated. Example: Marcella got hot under the collar when her friend accused her of cheating (meaning she became very angry at such a false accusation). The expression doesn't normally relate to the fabric in a collar or that someone was too warm, as was suggested in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 111: TURNING THE TABLES means to reverse the positions of opponents or to switch the points of view. The phrase is often used when the weaker position subsequently becomes dominant.

Origin: There are several explanations of how this expression began. Here is a far-out one: In earlier times, tables only had one finished side. The other side, less expensive to make, was rougher. When the family was dining alone, they ate on the rough side to keep the good side nice for company. When company came, the whole top lifted off and was turned to its good side. Another explanation relates to the game of duplicate bridge, in which players, after one round, replay the hand previously held by their opponent. Games like backgammon are known as 'table' games. The phrase 'turn the tables' relates to these games and to the practice of reversing the board so that players play from their opponent's previous position. Backgammon is a devilishly complicated and ancient board game that was, as recently as the 17th century, known as "tables." Apparently the arcane rules of backgammon allow sudden reversals of fortune that can rescue a player on the brink of losing and thus "turn the tables" to his or her advantage.

Answer for Card 112: One meaning of WHEN/IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE means that a situation has become so bad or dire that a strong (or drastic) action needs to be taken. Another is that someone needs to be alert and more aware of a certain situation when things change that might possibly result in different reactions. Example: Pretend you are working on a group assignment with several of your friends.

Everyone is pleasant and things are going along just fine. Then, all of a sudden, three of the group members become ill and drop out of the group. Two of the remaining team members can very easily adapt to the change, but one cannot. So in the future if the stress hits again, you will know which of your team members you can depend upon when "when push comes to shove." This expression typically doesn't pertain to actual pushing or shoving, as the cartoon suggests. *Origin: Consider how some physical fights have begun. One man looks at another the wrong way, and a nasty comment is made. Then an escalating reply. Then the two testosterone-soaked oafs stand up, face each other, puffing out their chests in an ancient ritual of male territorial dominance. But will it escalate further? Who's macho enough to carry out the threat when it goes two steps farther... when "push comes to shove"?*

Answer for Card 113: TALK IS CHEAP is a proverb that refers to just how easy it is to give an *opinion* on a topic or to give advice to someone, but it is much harder to actually *solve the problem*. In this cartoon Frank jokes about just how simply "talking" (saying words such as "fill it up"—at the gas station) isn't cheap at all, but is quite expensive. However, the expression doesn't usually relate to money, but rather to how easy it is to offer "words" as a solution rather than actions.

Answer for Card 114: Someone who is ALL EARS is very eager to listen to what is being discussed. In this cartoon when Jughead's mother wanted him to leave (and not hear Elviny's gossip), she told him he would need to take a bath. This caused him to run from the house—thus allowing Elviny to say share her gossip (since Loweezy was "all ears").

Answer for Card 115: KICK THE BUCKET simply means to die. Example: My pet frog kicked the bucket (meaning it died). This expression doesn't require a physical "bucket," as happens in this cartoon.

Origin: In 16th century England "bucket" had an additional meaning (and in some parts it still has), i.e. a beam or yoke used to hang or carry items. The term was used by Shakespeare in Henry IV Part II, 1597: "Swifter than he that gibbets on the Brewers Bucket." [to gibbet meant to hang] The wooden frame that was used to hang animals up by their feet for slaughter was called a bucket. Not unnaturally they were likely to struggle or to spasm after death and hence "kick the bucket."

Answer for Card 116: A GENTLEMAN FARMER refers to a farmer with independent means or a farmer with an independent source of income who farms for pleasure rather than for money. It also means a man who owns a farm but employs a manager and staff to work the farm. It doesn't literally refer to a man who might be considered a "gentleman," as is suggested by the cartoon.

Answer for Card 117: (HE) ISN'T (HIMSELF) means that a person isn't his "typically normal self" and is perhaps is being a bit peculiar or strange. In this cartoon, after Larry is described as not being "himself," his friends joke about the fact that he isn't a famous person either (which might be nice, in their opinion).

Answer for Card 118: This cartoon contains two expressions: **MONKEY BUSINESS** and **HEAR NO EVIL, SEE NO EVIL, AND SPEAK NO EVIL**. The first is a colloquialism for mischievous, deceitful, or silly behavior. Example: The teacher told the children to cut out the monkey business and get to work (meaning to stop their silly behavior and start studying again). *Origin: This expression transfers the tricks of monkeys to human behavior. [Late 1800s]* The second expression is a proverb reminding us not to be so snoopy, so nosy, and so gossipy. It is also used as a warning to stay away from places where bad acts are taking place. *Origin: There are several theories about how this expression originated. The Nikko Toshogo Shrine, also known as the Sacred Stable, in Japan has a carving of three wise monkeys. Many scholars believe the monkeys were carved as a visual representation of the religious principle, "If we do not hear, see, or speak evil, we ourselves shall be spared all evil."*

Answer for Card 119: **DON'T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET** suggests that you shouldn't put yourself in a situation where a single failure has catastrophic consequences. Spread your risk. Example: If someone has several dollars to invest in the stock market, it might be wise to investigate several different options rather than putting all of the money in one place. In this cartoon the older woman had followed the advice of the proverb and had not put all of her money in the same bank.

Answer for Card 120: **LANDING A REAL CATCH** and **THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY** are two expressions used by Loweezy and Elviney in their gossip session before Elviney's husband approached. Each of the expressions can relate both to fishing and to relationships (or romance). While just the two women were chatting, they were referring to romance. When the husband approached, however, they cleverly indicated they had been discussing a fishing trip.

Answer for Card 121: **GO A LONG WAY** means that one can advance rapidly, especially in a business or profession. It doesn't necessarily pertain to travel or to a physical distance—as is suggested might happen at the (cartoon) Nuclear Energy plant if the worker isn't **VERY CAREFUL**.

Answer for Card 122: **BUTTER (SOMEONE) UP** means that someone is trying to gain a favor or win a friendship through flattery or pleasantness. You might have heard something like, "You'd better butter him up before you ask for a big favor." In this cartoon Gunther was using the term literally to his friend Pierpoint (the tiny porcupine). Pierpoint initially thought Gunther was using the figurative expression until Gunther indicated he was "hungry." *Cartoon 65 uses this same expression, but with a different level of humor.*

Answer for Card 123: **OTHER FISH IN THE SEA** means that there are many, many other choices of dates, mates, or answers to the problem. The girl chasing Carlyle in this cartoon states that there are "plenty of other fish in the sea" (meaning that she will stop chasing him and find one of the other many choices for her), but she almost instantly changes her mind. *This expression is similar to the one in Cartoon 100, but with a slightly different level of humor.*

Answer for Card 124: **YOU CAN'T COMPARE APPLES AND ORANGES** is used to indicate that two items or groups of items have not been validly compared. This idiom points out the apparent differences between items that are popularly thought to be unrelated, such as apples and oranges. It suggests that a false analogy has been made between two items, such as where an "apple" is faulted for not being a good "orange." In this cartoon the girl is unable to state the idiom correctly, and she uses other fruits in the place of the typically spoken apples and oranges (for the sake of humor).

Answer for Card 125: **THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN** doesn't literally refer to a "door" (although it *can* include the door to someone's space, such as an office). A manager might say this to his staff, meaning that he is always available to talk about any problem at any time. In this cartoon Hagar actually **DID** leave his door open, and thieves took all of their belongings. Helga (his wife) wishes he hadn't interpreted the expression literally.

Answer for Card 126: **SOMETHING'S GOING AROUND** means that "something" like the flu virus (or strep throat, or something contagious) is affecting lots of people. In the cartoon "Sarge" is "going around"—implying that Sarge is having a bad (or "sick") effect on the platoon. Sarge is being compared to a bad virus.

Answer for Card 127: GIVING IS BETTER THAN RECEIVING is a proverb that actually does mean what the words say. In this cartoon the “wise one” is acting a little selfishly in his use of the quote, and he is being rather sly and tricky. *Origin: This is from the Bible, Acts 20 (King James Version). “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Although this is from the Bible, it has become a very oft-quoted “proverb” and is frequently used as advice for others.*

Answer for Card 128: IT COST AN ARM AND A LEG means the price was exceedingly high. This is the same expression as one used in cartoon 96, but a slightly different slant to the humor. The pirate in this cartoon has literally “paid” the price of several parts of his body. This led to Gunther’s comment about costing an arm and a leg.

Answer for Card 129: BUTTON MY LIP and HOLD MY TONGUE and KEEP MY TRAP SHUT and CLAM UP and KEEP MUM are five different expressions uttered by the same person in this cartoon. They all mean to BE QUIET and not voice an opinion at all. A person doesn’t literally “button” his lip, or “hold” his tongue, or do anything with a trap or clam. The humor in this cartoon is based on the fact that the trooper is doing exactly the *opposite* of what he *says* he is going to do.

Answer for Card 130: If you visit a restaurant and the food or beverage is ON THE HOUSE, that means that you will not be charged. The owner of the establishment will not give you a bill, or a “host” will pay the bill for you. In either case you don’t have to give any money for what you have ordered. If someone in your dining group says, “Today it’s on the house,” that means the person talking will pay the bill. Although “house” in this expression might have transcended from “host,” there is generally not a “house” involved. In this cartoon Loweezy offers Elviney the milk “on the house,” but she humorously changed it to “on the barn.”

Answer for Card 131: Born Loser in this cartoon began the expression: HE WHO LAUGHS LAST... There are several ways this expression is typically finished. Some are: “He who laughs last, laughs BEST (or LOUDEST or LONGEST).” Another is, “He who laughs, lasts” (thus having a different meaning from the first three). The expression “He who laughs last, laughs best” describes a feeling of satisfaction that occurs when others realize that you have won or succeeded after thinking that they had defeated you or after thinking that you had failed. In this cartoon the Born Loser’s wife chides him for the reason that he typically “laughs last.” In her opinion it is because when a joke is told, he laughs last because he has to wait until someone has explains the punch line to him.

Answer for Card 132: MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES means that we should do something at the right time—and not wait too long. Expressions that communicate similar meaning are “strike while the iron is hot,” or “Get while the getting is good.” In this cartoon the humor centers around the fact that the farmer didn’t have lights on his tractor and therefore was forced to do his work “while the sun shines.” *Origin: The grass that is going to be used as hay needs to be dried after it is cut: rain is likely to spoil it. The farmer, therefore, tries to cut hay on a day when it seems likely that the sun would be shining on that day and one or two more. Although this expression was likely derived from some of the literal meaning, today’s usage no longer relates to either hay or the sun.*

Answer for Card 133: THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM predicts that the person who gets up early in the morning has the best chance of succeeding. One who arrives early or responds quickly generally gets ahead of others. In this cartoon the literal “early bird” arrived too late at the diner, and all the worms had already been sold. *Origin: This expression likely originated as scientists observed the behaviors of birds. It was first recorded in English in 1605, and it is so familiar that it is often shortened to “early bird,” a term also used in the sense of “early riser,” as in “You can call me at seven—I’m an early bird,” as well as “early diner.” Many restaurants now have “early-bird specials” at lower prices.*

Answer for Card 134: TWO SHAKES OF A LAMB’S TAIL means very quickly or as soon as possible. Example: I’ll have this finished in two shakes of a lamb’s tail (meaning that I’ll finish it “yesterday”). In this cartoon Daisy Duck says she’ll be back “in two shakes” but she took much longer to do her shopping. When she returned, Donald joked about her delay by asking if she couldn’t “find a lamb’s tail.” *Origin: No one knows with certainty, but some humorists have offered the explanation that a bored shepherd coined the phrase. In all likelihood it relates to the speed at which lambs shake their tails. This expression has been used so often that it is frequently shortened to “two shakes.”*

Answer for Card 135: NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED means that you can't get anywhere unless you're willing to take a risk. In this cartoon Killer's "venture" resulted in his getting a bowl of punch poured on him. *Origin: The saying dates back to Chaucer (c. 1374) and is similar to the late fourteenth century French proverb: Qui onques rien n'enprist riens n'achieva (He who never undertook anything never achieved anything). It takes varying forms: Nothing ventured, nothing lost; nothing ventured, nothing won, etc.*

Answer for Card 136: JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY simply means a short distance. This saying likely began with a literal connection of how far a typical person could throw a stone, but its meaning has gradually evolved to mean "very close" and—as such—has no connection with a "stone." In this cartoon, however, there is an actual "stone" thrown through the window just as Born Loser is about to explain how far away Hurricane Hattie lives.

Answer for Card 137: OVER THE HILL describes someone past the peak of youthful vigor and freshness, far along in life, or old. This expression is also used in cartoon 91. There is no literal connection with a "hill" as this saying is currently used, but in this cartoon the "boss" is on the other side of an actual "hill" and can hear what is being said.

Answer for Card 138: HE PUT HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH means that he said something stupid, hurtful, or painful. In this cartoon Born Loser's mother-in-law suggests that he must have awakened with his foot in his mouth (meaning that he likely said something stupid even when he talked in his sleep). *Origin: The 18th century Irish Parliamentarian Sir Boyle Roche was known for the "stupid" things he said, such as, "Half the lies our opponents tell about me are not true!" After several such utterances, someone with a much firmer grasp of the English language remarked of Roche, "Every time he opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it," and thus this expression was born.*

Answer for Card 139: ONE BRICK SHY OF A LOAD describes someone who is not very bright or who performs a deed that doesn't reflect intelligence. *Origin: Normal people occasionally do stupid things. There are hundreds of sayings to describe this type of person or action. A few are: you aren't operating with a full deck, you're out to sea without a rudder or a sail, you're dimwitted, you're not the sharpest tool in the shed, you aren't the sharpest knife in the drawer, you're not the brightest bulb in the box, you don't have both oars in the water, you are a couple sandwiches shy of a picnic (or a few beers short of a six pack, or a few beans short of a burrito), you have few too many lights out on your Christmas tree, you have had a few too many tackles without a helmet, the wheel's spinning but the hamster's dead, your elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor, you're one French fry short of a Happy Meal, and you are playing a guitar that has no strings. The list goes on and on....*

Answer for Card 140: OUT TO LUNCH describes someone who is not in touch with the real world; crazy; lacking in good mental judgment. It doesn't technically mean that someone is eating food around the noon hour, as Miss Prawn commented to her boss in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 141: FOOLS RUSH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD describes a situation where a person without the needed knowledge to tackle a problem does so anyway even though those far wiser wouldn't even consider such a risk. The cartoon reflects the literal interpretation of this saying. *Origin: This saying has been attributed to Alexander Pope (1688–1744), British satirical poet, in his An Essay on Criticism.*

Answer for Card 142: A SOFT ANSWER TURNETH AWAY WRATH advises one to offer a kind response when difficulties arise rather than to respond with harshness and anger. [This, of course, didn't work for Beetle in the cartoon.] *Origin: This expression comes from the Bible. In 1 Timothy 1:10, the verse fully reads: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Contrast this with President Theodore Roosevelt's adage (see cartoons 57 and 154), "Speak softly and carry a big stick" as an expression of his foreign policy. Perhaps he meant that America should be a gentle nation, but one with such strength that no one would dare threaten us. As a foreign policy, Mr. Roosevelt's statement is sound. In the lives of individuals, however, it is contrary to the doctrine pointed out in this cartoon.*

Answer for Card 143: IRONING OUT (THEIR) DIFFERENCES advises people to work on their problems and arrive at a reasonable solution—or to remove any/all difficulties. It doesn't technically involve an "iron" as is indicated in this cartoon.

Answer for Card 144: BURN OUT means to wear out or become exhausted, especially as a result of long-term stress—particularly on the job. Example: Tom burned out during the first part of the race because he didn't pace himself as he should have done (meaning he became too exhausted to complete the race). Brittany burned out during the three months of long rehearsals for the musicals (meaning that she just "wore out" from the stress and length of the practice sessions). This expression doesn't relate to the temperature (someone being too warm) as the cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 145: IN THE PINK and IN THE RED have two different meanings. "In the pink" refers to being in perfect condition, especially of health. *Origin: The general usage of this phrase has altered somewhat since it first entered the language. We now usually see it with the specific meaning of "the pink of condition." The allusion is of the association of pink with newborn babies and healthy glowing cheeks, i.e. with perfection and health. The earliest citations are from the 18th century and, at that time, the meaning was "the very pinnacle of something," but not necessarily limited to things healthy or desirable.* "In the red" means being in debt. *Origin: This phrase came from the practice of using red ink to denote debt or losses on financial balance sheets. Likewise, in the black for businesses that are financially solvent.*

Answer for Card 146: OUT OF SYNC (also spelled SYNCH) means that something isn't quite exactly as it should be. Sometimes it means that one is in a bad mood. In this cartoon Priscilla's mom described herself as being "out of synch," but Priscilla only "heard" the word and concluded that her mother didn't have enough room in the kitchen *sink* to wash the dishes. The words *sink* and *sync* are homophones (words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings).

Answer for Card 147: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX is a fairly new business cliché that means thinking beyond the typical ways of doing things. The boss in this cartoon has reversed this cliché for his "normal-thinking" employee. *Origin: This supposedly began with the Walt Disney organization in the 1950-60s because of a nine-dot puzzle that was used in training sessions within the company. Each dot has a meaning and the two points outside of the box were labeled as "The Vision" and "The Method." After Disney's death in 1966, people asked, "How did Walt think?" Mike Vance, then Dean of Disney University would explain the nine-dot puzzle and how you had to Think Outside the Box to solve it, as how Walt Disney's thought process always worked. After leaving Disney in the late 1970s, Vance talked extensively about the nine-dot puzzle and Disney's thinking in his speeches and seminars. Vance was encouraged to write a book about thinking outside the box, which he did in 1995. There is no doubt that the thousands of speeches Vance gave in the 1980-90s popularized the term "Thinking Outside the Box." Vance is so lined to that phrase that when he worked with Taco Bell on a new commercial, they came up with the slogan "Think Outside the Bun," and it stuck.*

Answer for Card 148: MY PLATE IS FULL means there is too much to do, or one just cannot do any more. Example: I'm studying for my finals, taking piano lessons, and going to softball practice; my plate is full (meaning she can't do anything on top of what is already scheduled in her life). In this cartoon Gladys informs her husband (called the Born Loser) that he'd just better prepare himself because there will be more problems coming!

Answer for Card 149: LEAVE YOUR WORRIES ON YOUR DOORSTEP means to forget about your problems (for a time, at least) and enjoy life. In this cartoon Frank was afraid to go back home because that's where he (supposedly) left his worries. *Origin: This expression was likely first heard in the song "On the Sunny Side of the Street," first recorded by Louis Armstrong and his orchestra in October 1934, during the Great Depression. Here were the first four lines: Grab your coat and get your hat/Leave your worries on the doorstep/Life can be so sweet/On the sunny side of the street.*

Answer for Card 150: GETTING UP WITH THE CHICKENS means to get up early in the day. In this cartoon Gunther and Pierpoint translated this differently (to mean that Gunther ate chickens early in the morning). *Origin: This expression relates to several others. "Early to bed" meant going to bed with the chickens. "Early to rise" meant getting up with the chickens. Thus folks were fully rested and ready to pursue a healthy, prosperous day. Hopefully they would eventually accumulate a storehouse of wealth resulting from all their hard work and diligence.*

Answer for Card 151: WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD refers to the times when the topic of food has been mentioned. However, in this cartoon, the words are taken literally, and Sarge will come to where the actual food can be eaten. Therefore, the cook replied with, "When it comes to food, Sarge comes to food"—thus incorporating both of the meanings of the words in this saying.

Answer for Card 152: A PAIN IN THE NECK is an annoying or troublesome person or thing. Although the term might have originated with an occasion where a troublesome person actually caused a “pain in the neck,” the expression usually has nothing to do with the physical neck. Both the literal and figurative meanings are demonstrated in the cartoon.

Answer for Card 153: HEADS WILL ROLL means that people will be punished for what has gone wrong. Although punishment will be forthcoming, it doesn’t literally mean that a “head” will be rolling. In this cartoon the humor was based on the association with “lettuce” (because the “lettuce heads” actually would roll if some were removed from the bottom of the stack). *Origin: It is likely that this expression was coined during earlier days of punishment by the guillotine. This was the extreme punishment, and when someone today wants to make a strong statement about the consequences of a deed, the term “heads will roll” will likely be used.*

Answer for Card 154: SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK is a proverb advising the tactic of caution and non-aggression, backed up by the ability to exercise force if required. This is the same proverb used in cartoon 57, but this cartoon distorts the sound of the word “stick” for the humor. “Schtick” means an incidental activity performed by an actor for dramatic effect—so instead of carrying a “big stick,” the boy in this cartoon decided to “finish with a big schtick.”

Answer for Card 155: WE PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE means that we **live** only one life—and a generally added implication is that we should make the best of it. Beetle is so unhappy with his current position in the armed forces that he is glad he won’t be back in the same position again.

Answer for Card 156: BIRDS OF A FEATHER WILL FLOCK TOGETHER and A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH are both stated in this cartoon. The first expression means that people who are alike often become friends or socialize together. Example: Mom advised her son not to associate with the bad boys because most people think that birds of a feather will flock together (meaning people would think her son is bad also). The second expression means to keep what you have and don’t take a chance or gamble on possibilities of what you *might* get. Example: Edward has a job delivering papers, but he’d rather work at a fast-food place. His mother told him that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (meaning that Edward should keep the job he currently has until he is *sure* of getting a better one).

Answer for Card 157: THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS is the original expression from which Frank twisted his “the sum is much greater than the parts” in this cartoon. The original expression means that when a number of simple things or processes join forces and become more complex, the result can be greater than they would be if simply added together. Imagine, for example, a number of computers working independently of each other in isolation. Join them together on a network and you have a version of the Internet—and of course the impact the Internet has had on the global way of life is far more profound than anything the individual users could have foreseen. *Origin: This phrase is usually informally attributed to Aristotle, an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist.*

Answer for Card 158: AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE is a proverb meaning that it is much easier to take action to prevent a problem than to deal with it after it has happened. This proverb expresses a similar idea to that of “A stitch in time saves nine.” Example: I strongly recommend backing up your data on your computer at least once a day because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this cartoon the Born Loser is decrying the effects of inflation by slightly changing the wording of this proverb.

Answer for Card 159: THE WHOLE NINE YARDS means completely, the whole, everything. Example: I was mugged. They took my wallet, my keys, my shoes, my coat—the whole nine yards! *Origin: If you Google this saying, a wide variety of explanations will pop up. The following is simply one of them: The earliest known example of the phrase in print is in The Agitator, March 29, 1855, in a story concerning a judge who arrived at an event without a spare shirt and decided to have one made for him. As a joke a friend ordered one with three times the required material, i.e. “nine yards of bleached domestic and three yards of linen.” The outcome was: “He found himself shrouded in a shirt five yards long and four yards broad. What a silly, stupid woman! I told her to get enough to make three shirts; instead of making three, she has put the whole nine yards into one shirt!”*

Answer for Card 160: FAITH WILL MOVE MOUNTAINS means that nothing is impossible to those who have sufficient faith. This may be applied not only to religious faith, but to any strong belief in a cause or objective. Example: She firmly believes that she can make him change his ways—and faith will move mountains—so she may yet succeed. In this cartoon Frank named his bulldozer “Faith” because he is literally trying to move the dirt from a mountain. *Origin: The proverb is a biblical origin (Matthew 17:20): “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”*

Answer for Card 161: UP AND AROUND IN NO TIME generally refers to someone who is overcoming an illness and is expected to get well and back to work/school very soon. Example: I’ve really struggled with the flu this week, but I’ll be up and around in no time (meaning that I will feel better and get back to my job shortly). In this cartoon Frank uses the expression slightly differently, with the word *up* to mean “up in space,” and the word *around* to be “around the Earth.”

Answer for Card 162: BUYING SOMETHING ON TIME refers to a purchase made when the payments are in installments. When the words “on time” are typically used, they refer to being punctual. Both are used to create the humor this cartoon.

Answer for Card 163: FINDING A HAPPY MEDIUM means arriving at a satisfactory compromise. This cartoon takes an interesting turn as Stuart “sets up” Hollyhock with the meaning of the word *medium*. That word can mean both “an intermediate course of action” and “a person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead or with agents of another world or dimension (also called psychic).” Stuart leads Hollyhock to fall for his “find a happy medium” play on words.

Answer for Card 164: A MAN OF THE CLOTH refers to a member of the clergy, a priest, or a spiritual leader of the Christian Church. In this cartoon Loweezy tells the parson that her son is already a “man of the cloth” because of the many “cloth diapers” she has to use for him. *Origin: In earlier times royalty and nobility provided livery—namely, clothes for a servant. (The term livery comes from delivery; the master delivered the clothes to the servant.) From the elegant costumes of servants, other liveries arose—“clothes of calling,” uniforms that became associated with certain professions. The term “man of the cloth” was thus originally applied to mean any livery or any clothes that identified a profession. By the late 17th Century, the meaning had been restricted to the clerical profession, a minister or clergyman who wore professional garb.*

Answer for Card 165: FITTING INTO THE SCHEME OF THINGS is an expression meaning that someone “matches” the goal of an entire group or project. In this cartoon the company name is “The Scheme of Things.” The applicant is told he doesn’t “fit in”—thus making a humorous reference to this expression.

Answer for Card 166: SEE (SOMEONE) TO THE DOOR means forcing the individual to leave or asking the person to get out. Example: When the students misbehaved, the teacher didn’t hesitate to show them the door (meaning she made them leave the classroom). In this cartoon the Born Loser and his boss interpret “see me to the door” in two different ways: One is “see” (walk) someone to the door, and the other “forcing someone to leave.” It takes the Born Loser a few minutes to realize what has happened and how he has been insulted.

Answer for Card 167: (YOU’RE) ALL WET is a slang expression meaning that you are entirely mistaken. Example: I explained why I was late, but she thought I was all wet (meaning she thought I was foolishly incorrect). In this cartoon the general receives the effects of the literal interpretation after he called his secretary “all wet.”

Answer for Card 168: (I) REST (MY) CASE is something that you say when someone says or does something that proves the truth of what *you* have just said. Example: Mom explained that her son should leave home or he’ll never learn to be independent. Father responded by saying, “He doesn’t even know how to boil an egg.” Mom replied, “I rest my case” (meaning “what you’ve just said proves my point”). This typically doesn’t relate to an actual briefcase, as is suggested in the cartoon. *Origin: In the legal world, each side to a dispute is given a certain opportunity to present its version of the facts, whether by calling witnesses, or by reference to documents, etc. When the evidence has been concluded, each side then makes legal argument to the judge/jury in turn. When the turn is finished, the advocate is said to “rest” its case.*

Answer for Card 169: THE PECKING ORDER refers to the organization of people at different ranks in an administrative body; the power structure of a group. *Origin: This expression began by observing birds, and it describes their social hierarchy in a flock of domestic fowl in which each bird pecks subordinate birds and submits to being pecked by dominant birds. This description is still used today to describe the behavior of birds, but it has also evolved into a more modern meaning that now pertains to businesses and industry.*

Answer for Card 170: DO BIRDS FLY is a ridiculous response to a totally absurd question. In this cartoon, for example, when Lucky Eddie asks Hagar if he is going to eat the piece of cake (because he would like to have it for himself), Hagar responds with this outlandish question. Another common question in such instances is, “Is the Pope Catholic?” Lucky Eddie, unfortunately, doesn’t understand the meaning of Hagar’s response.

Answer for Card 171: HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN means that men put in positions of authority are often overwhelmed by the impending responsibilities. To hold a title (crown) isn’t always as glamorous as it might seem. This expression doesn’t limit itself to royalty or politicians. It can also pertain to the “head of the household” because of the responsibilities he or she must carry. In this cartoon Frank is making fun of the king (who isn’t in good physical shape).

Answer for Card 172: GET OUTTA TOWN is a response by someone who thinks you’re lying—or who thinks you gotta be kidding! It doesn’t literally mean that person wants you to “leave town,” as this cartoon implies.

Answer for Card 173: THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE originated with a passage in the Bible that literally was interpreted as meaning that one should always tell the truth. This proverb has evolved to mean that voicing (or hearing) the truth can be “freeing” by lifting a burden off your shoulders. In this cartoon, however, when Frank revealed the “truth” about himself, he was “set free” (fired) by his boss.

Answer for Card 174: ON YOUR WATCH refers to the time you are scheduled to “work” or to be “on duty.” Example: I’m really glad the robbery didn’t happen on my watch (meaning while I was at work, or while I was responsible for the welfare of our store’s employees). In this cartoon Hagar asks Lucky Eddie not to sleep on his watch (meaning not to go to sleep while he was schedule to be the lookout man)—but Lucky Eddie didn’t understand the meaning of the expression and was confused.

Answer for Card 175: GET OUT (STOP) AND SMELL THE ROSES is a widely used cliché that means you should slow down your life and appreciate the small things that can give you much pleasure, such as smelling a rose. In this cartoon Hagar would have liked to smell the roses, but he (literally) couldn’t because of a sinus condition. *Origin: This likely began in a conversation between two friends—one of whom had a rose garden. The garden owner worked so diligently that she did not even have the time to enjoy the beauty of her own flowers. Her friend gently advised her to stop working long enough to appreciate the beauty of what she was growing. In the 1980s Ringo Starr had an album entitled “Stop and Smell the Roses”—but the term had been used long before his song.*

Answer for Card 176: RETIRE (HIS) JERSEY means that his jersey (and the number on the uniform) has been withdrawn from circulation and cannot be used by future players. In this cartoon the word Jersey is used for a particular breed of cows. When the cow died, the friend made a humorous remark about “retiring his Jersey.”

Answer for Card 177: (MY) SHIP CAME IN means that someone has just received a large amount of money. Example: Judy’s father told her that his ship just came in, and he will buy her a large diamond ring (meaning he has just received a fortune and now has the money to get the ring she has always wanted). The humor in this cartoon pertains to the fact that Frank was at the “bus station” when “his ship came in” instead of being near the water (literally where ships “come in”). *Origin: In the 1500s, “my ship came in” often meant becoming an instant millionaire because there were many cargos of spice, silk, or fine porcelain worth many times the value of a ship.*

Answer for Card 178: THERE'S NO FOOL LIKE AN OLD FOOL means that age does not protect someone from foolishness. There is an interesting level of humor in this cartoon. After the general's wife describes her husband as an "old fool" (because he is flirting with the young and beautiful Miss Buxley), the wife says that Miss Buxley doesn't even know the general exists—and adds that if she ever DOES "know," then he won't (exist any longer). *A comment lifted from the Internet: This proverb illustrates the value placed on youth in our nation. This perspective is in sharp contrast with the way other cultures feel about and respect the elderly. You may have noticed the importance of communicating respect for elders in the families of immigrant patients or the dynamic of the positions of informal leadership held by older immigrants in the workplace. The United States is practically alone in the world in its obsession with youth and cavalier attitude toward older people. It is imperative that we stay alert to this contrast in values so that we will remember to communicate the deference and respect that is so essential to developing good cross-cultural relationships.*

Answer for Card 179: BEING TWO FACED means that someone is being deliberately deceptive—especially by pretending one set of feelings but acting under the influence of another. Example: She was two faced as she discussed the issues with each of the opposing political candidates (meaning she gave each one of the candidates the idea that she agreed with them—even when they were on opposite sides of the issue). In this cartoon the Born Loser's mother in law "implies" that he is two faced with her clever response.

Answer for Card 180: CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR means to fall just short of a successful outcome but get nothing for your efforts. The humor in this cartoon gets close to the literal meaning because of the failure to come up with a tobacco settlement. *Origin: The phrase, and its variant "nice try, but no cigar," are of US origin and date from the mid-20th century. Fairground stalls gave out cigars as prizes, and if the contestant got "close" to winning but didn't, then this expression was used. It is first recorded in print in Sayre and Twist's publishing of the script of the 1935 film version of Annie Oakley: "Close, Colonel, but no cigar!" It appeared in U. S. newspapers widely from around 1949 onwards. For example, a story from The Lima News, Lima, Ohio, November, 1949, where The Lima House Cigar and Sporting Goods Store narrowly avoided being burned down in a fire, was titled "Close But No Cigar."*

Answer for Card 181: The expression HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SENSE TO COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN is only implied in this cartoon when the Born Loser isn't aware of the fact that he needs to go indoors because it has started raining. His mother-in-law must have repeatedly warned her daughter that "he didn't have enough sense to get in out of the rain" (meaning that he is really dumb). *Origin: One suggested origin for this expression involves turkeys—because they can drown if they look up when it is raining. Groups of domesticated turkeys have been seen standing in the rain with their beaks pointed straight up toward the sky. Nobody seems to know why. They are extremely curious creatures, so some turkey experts guess that they are curious about raindrops. Or could they be attempting to get a drink of water? Nevertheless, since their nostrils are tiny oval-shaped openings alongside their beaks, they make the perfect holder for the falling rain. Not having enough sense to come in out of the rain, the turkeys drown.*

Answer for Card 182: A BUM STEER means to be led astray, intentionally or unintentionally, with misleading or wrong information; incorrect information or advice. It doesn't literally refer to cattle of any sort, although in this cartoon Gunther does make this connection erroneously.

Answer for Card 183: DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH means that you shouldn't be ungrateful when you receive a gift. This proverb suggests that when you are given a present, be grateful for your good fortune and don't look for more by examining the gift to assess its value. The humor in the cartoon involves the fact that the horse is wooden. *Origin: As horses age, their teeth begin to project further forward each year, and so their age can be estimated by checking how prominent the teeth are. This incidentally is also the source of another teeth/age related phrase, "long in the tooth."*

Answer for Card 184: The expression used in this cartoon was a twist on the popular BREAK A LEG utterance that is frequently said to actors for good luck before they go on stage, especially on opening nights. *Origin: Theatrical types are well known for their belief in superstitions, or at least for their willingness to make a show of pretending to believe them. The term 'break a leg' appears to come from the belief that one ought not to utter the words "good luck" to an actor. By wishing someone bad luck, it is supposed that the opposite will occur. "Break a leg" also means, "make a strenuous effort." There are many references to the phrase used that way, which pre-date the earliest theatrical good luck charm meaning. For example, from the Evening State Journal, Nebraska, 1937: "With all the break-a-leg dancing there are many who still warm to graceful soft shoe stepping." So, it is possible that when an actor is told to "break a leg," he/she may just be being exhorted to put on an energetic, exciting performance. There are many other proposed derivations—three of them are: Put on a performance good enough that you will have to bend your knee in a bow or curtsy to acknowledge the applause. OR, impress the audience so much that you will need to bend down to pick up the coins they throw onto the stage. OR, go on stage and have your "big break."*

Answer for Card 185: OPPOSITES ATTRACT is commonly used expression that has a literal interpretation of its words. Although it doesn't initially sound logical, it does seem that in daily lives, that which is "opposite" often seems to have a strong appeal. In this cartoon when Lucky Eddie asks Hagar about the expression, Hagar uses the opportunity to insult his friend by telling him he will marry a GREAT woman (the "opposite" of Lucky Eddie himself).

Answer for Card 186: GO FOR BROKE means to risk everything one has left in a last attempt to win or succeed. (This term is often used in gambling.) When people "go for broke," they risk everything they have for a potentially greater gain. In this cartoon Priscilla's father makes a joking reference to the price of groceries. *Origin: This expression was made popular by a war film entitled Go for Broke! released in 1951. The film dramatizes the real-life story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was composed of Nisei, second-generation Americans born of Japanese parents. Fighting in the European theater during World War II, this unit became the most heavily decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the United States Army, as well as one of the units with the highest casualty rates. This film is a Hollywood rarity which features Asian-Americans in a positive light and even more rare in highlighting the irony of those Japanese-Americans who fought bravely for their country while that country interned their families in Japanese American Internment camps.*

Answer for Card 187: BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER can almost be interpreted literally. What one person thinks is beautiful might be entirely different from what another person thinks. In this cartoon Priscilla thinks her newly found pet frog is "beautiful." Her parents, however, see it differently.

Answer for Card 188: This cartoon uses two different expressions: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX and DON'T COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES. The first one means thinking beyond usual ways of doing things. (See cartoon 147 for more details about this expression.) The second expression began as an innocent elementary school instruction by teachers who wanted their students' drawings to be neat, and it has come to mean that there is one right way to do things—one "correct" method that should always be followed. Consider Frank's plight in this cartoon when he is given both sets of instructions!

Answer for Card 189: GO FLY A KITE tells someone to get out of the way and to stop being a bother. This expression is only implied in the cartoon, and we know that because the Born Loser is literally shown following the supposed instructions from his boss. *Origin: Imagine you're trying to do some serious work and someone is really annoying you. There are many expressions that you could utter that are similar to "Go fly a kite!" Some are: "Go jump in a lake!" "Go climb a tree!" "Go fry an egg!" All of them communicate to people that they are pests, and you're commanding them to go away and do something else. Flying a kite is an activity that should keep them busy for a while so that you can get your "work" done.*

Answer for Card 190: WE PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE means that we **live** only one life—and a generally added implication is that we should make the best of it. Frank is referring to driving a vehicle (passing) and the difficulty of not winding up on the same road more than one time. Contrast this with cartoon 155.

Answer for Card 191: This cartoon contains three expressions: LIFTED HIS SPIRITS and RIPPED HIM OFF and STEALING THUNDER. The first means to make someone feel better through kind words or deeds. The second means that someone was robbed or stolen from. The third one means to take away the attention and publicity that should go to someone else or to another cause without prior warning. Frank and Ernest (in this cartoon) make clever associations to the literal meanings of these three expressions.

Answer for Card 192: (SOMEONE'S) ACHILLES HEEL refers to his weak or vulnerable trait. In this cartoon the humor is based on the fact that the insurance would not cover the only part of Achilles' body that needed coverage—his heel. *Origin: The legend of Achilles has it that his mother Thetis dipped him into the river Styx in order to make him invulnerable. The water didn't cover his heel, and he was later killed by an arrow wound to his heel. Although the legend is ancient, the phrase wasn't picked up in English until the 19th century. It is used as a metaphor for vulnerability, as in the earliest citation, an essay by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in The Friend, a literary, moral and political weekly paper, 1810: "Ireland, that vulnerable heel of the British Achilles!"*

Answer for Card 193: A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET means that it doesn't matter what someone is **called**; what really matters is what the person **is**. The humor in this cartoon reflects the literal interpretation of the expression. *Origin: From Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, 1594: (Juliet is speaking) "Tis but thy name that is my enemy;/Thou art thyself, though not a Montague./What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,/Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part/Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!/What's in a name? That which we call a rose/By any other name would smell as sweet;/So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,/Retain that dear perfection which he owes/Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,/And for that name which is no part of thee/Take all myself."* A story tour guides frequently tell is that Shakespeare was also making a joke at the expense of the Rose Theatre in this line. The Rose was a local rival to his Globe Theatre and is reputed to have had less than effective sanitary arrangements. The story goes that Shakespeare included this line as a coy joke about the smell. This certainly has the whiff of folk etymology about it, but it might just be true.

Answer for Card 194: In this cartoon Sarge "mangles" the following two expressions: IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN and UP THE CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE. The first can be interpreted literally (and is excellent advice), and the second refers to someone in deep trouble and unable to do anything about it. If you are anywhere in a boat in a creek, it is hard to get anywhere without a paddle. So your situation would be very difficult. Example: His first parachute wouldn't open, then the emergency one failed; therefore, you might say he was up the creek without a paddle. *Origin: The phrase is a gentrified version of a WWII saying (that is too graphic to print here). Just imagine being in a rowboat at the top of Niagara Falls and you lose an oar!*

Answer for Card 195: ALL THINGS COME TO HIM (HE) WHO WAITS was the expression that Frank began but which Earnest humorously changed. It means that patience will be rewarded. *Origin: This expression was credited to Violet Fane (1843-1905) in her poem "Tout vient à qui sait attendre": Ah, all things come to those who wait/(I say these words to make me glad)/But something answers soft and sad/They come, but often come too late.*

Answer for Card 196: IT'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK means that we shouldn't complain about something that has already happened. We shouldn't be unhappy about something that could not be helped. In this cartoon, though, each child is trying to blame the other one for the (actual) spilled milk! Contrast this with cartoon 12. In this Baby Blues cartoon the ending of the proverb has been changed for the sake of humor.

Answer for Card 197: THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE describes a situation when we are not satisfied and we want to be somewhere else; a place that is far away or different seems better than where we are now. Contrast this with cartoon 53. In this Baby Blues cartoon the ending of the proverb has been changed for the sake of humor.

Answer for Card 198: A BIRD IN HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH means to keep what you have and don't take a chance or gamble on possibilities of what you *might* get. See cartoon 156 for a comparison. In this Baby Blues cartoon the ending of the proverb has been changed for the sake of humor.

Answer for Card 199: GIVE A MAN A FISH, AND HE'LL EAT FOR A DAY; TEACH A MAN TO FISH, AND HE'LL EAT FOR A LIFE. This ancient Chinese proverb offers much wisdom regarding how to help those in need. In this Baby Blues cartoon the ending of the proverb has been changed for the sake of humor.

Answer for Card 200: NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES is a rather fatalistic and sardonic proverb. It draws on the actual inevitability of death to highlight the difficulty in avoiding the burden of taxes. In this Baby Blues cartoon the ending of the proverb has been changed for the sake of humor. *Origin: Several famous authors have uttered lines to this effect. The first was Daniel Defoe, in The Political History of the Devil, 1726: "Things as certain as death and taxes, can be more firmly believed." Benjamin Franklin (1706-90) used the form we are currently more familiar with, in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy, 1789, which was re-printed in The Works of Benjamin Franklin, 1817: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."*