



WE, JOKERS

英語のジョークを楽しむ会会報

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- ジョークの心得三か条：1. ジョークは心のゆとりであり、人生の潤滑油です。
2. ジョークで言語の壁に挑むのは知的快感です。
3. ジョークは簡潔が至上です。

今月のエッセー

Play on words in Songs

Gary Duval



I love comedy and I love music especially rock and country. Comedy finds a way into these and I have a collection of several of the best examples. Country music is well known for its songs of broken hearts, dogs, whisky, and bad men, but it also has many songs that are very funny when one listens closely to the lyrics. Some of the funny lyrics include *double entendre* or play on words.

If you look at the titles of some of the songs you can get the idea: *If I Said You Had a Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me*, *I'm going Through The Big D and I Don't Mean Dallas*, *I Shaved My Legs for This?*, among others.

Of course, the first title makes a play on words on the phrase "hold against" which means to become angry with or to not forgive you, and the more direct meaning of holding one's body tight against another person's body. It also is making fun of the way men and women get upset if the wrong person says the wrong thing to a person. If a woman heard that she had a beautiful body from a handsome, charming man, then she might be more willing to hold her body tight against his. On the other hand, if the words came from a man the woman thought not attractive, she might very well never forgive him.

The Big D is divorce and not Dallas, the city. The song makes fun of the American way of divorce.

Another song by the same artist, Jerry Reed, was *She Got the Gold Mine and I Got the Shaft* which refers to a vulgar American term meaning to be severely beaten or to lose all of one's money in a business deal or through some trickery.

The ladies of country also get into the act with songs that make fun of how they get all dressed up and their boyfriend shows up in his jeans and only wants her to go to the local sports bar to hang out with his own friends or just the fact that the dates turns out badly and she should have stayed at home, and not shaved her legs.

These examples show how writers play with words to create images that amuse and entertain us. I enjoy the images that the titles create like *I Want a Beer as Cold as My Ex-wife's Heart* or make fun of our life styles and new values like *Billy Broke My Heart at Walgreens* and *I Cried All the Way to Sears*. They all keep us from getting too serious about ourselves and help keep us sane.

今月のジョーク

What is the thinnest book in the world?

What Men Know About Women.