

Statutory Warning

Everyone enjoys a good joke, especially if it pokes fun at some one else. However, someone or the other is bound to be offended by a joke, any joke. These jokes are mostly targeted at accountants, followed by lawyers and then by other professions.

If you are an accountant, a lawyer, a professional or even a human being, read further at your own risk. Even so, if a particular joke too offensive, do let us know by sending us a message.

Latest additions are at the end.

Settling Accounts

Two accountants were in a bank, when armed robbers busted in. While several of the robbers were taking the money from the tellers, the first accountant jams something in the second accountant's hand.

Without looking down, the second accountant whispers, "What did you hand me?"

The first accountant says, "It is that Rs.1,000 I owe you."



A longer life...

A patient was at her doctor's office after undergoing a complete physical exam. The doctor said, "I have some very grave news for you. You only have six months to live."

The patient asked, "Oh doctor, what should I do?"

The doctor replied, "Marry a CA."

"Will that make me live longer?" asked the patient.

"No," said the doctor, "but it will SEEM longer."

Warning Signals for Accountants

You might be taking accounting too seriously, if:

- You cheer at the Oscars when they announce the accounting firm in charge of the envelopes.
- You read film credits to identify the name of the Production Accountant.
- You double underline your mother's name when preparing her death notice.
- You can explain the difference between "downsizing", "right sizing", "re-engineering" and "firing people".
- You think that leaving office at 5 o'clock is a half-day.
- You use the term "value added" with a straight face.
- You schedule a meeting with your spouse to discuss the past year's performance.

CAs are not boring. They just get excited over boring things.

The Government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul.

-George Bernard Shaw

Accounting will prove anything, even the truth.

To the optimist, the glass of water is half full.

To the pessimist, the glass of water is half empty.

To the accountant, the glass of water is twice as big as it needs to be.

- ❑ You aren't sure, but you think that you can claim depreciation on your human capital as a tax deduction.
- ❑ Your idea of "absolute terror" is an unbalanced T account.
- ❑ Your idea of "creativity" is a one-sided journal entry.

Cinderella

This CA¹ had just read the story of Cinderella to his four-year-old daughter for the first time. The little girl was fascinated by the story, especially the part where the pumpkin turns into a golden coach.

Suddenly she piped up, "Daddy, when the pumpkin turned into a golden coach, would that be classed as income or as long-term capital gain?"

One + two =

When accountants are asked for the result of adding one and two, the following may occur:

- ❑ A newly qualified accountant may need to refer to the senior partners to see if there is a previous ruling on what the answer might be.
- ❑ A long-established accountant may take a year to arrive at an answer and will be unable to explain how it was derived.
- ❑ A professional accountant may respond with a question: 'What sort of a figure did you have in mind, sir?'

Nigel Rees: Guinness Book of Humorous Anecdotes

Management Review of Reports

Question: How many feet do mice have?

Original Reply: Mice have four feet.

Mgmt comment: Elaborate.

Revision 1: Mice have five appendages, four of which are feet.

Mgmt comment: No discussion of fifth appendage.

Revision 2: Mice have five appendages; four of them are feet and one is a tail.

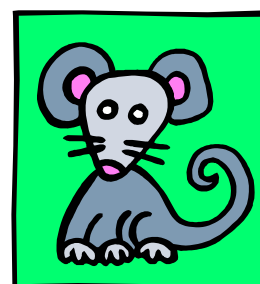
Mgmt comment: What? Feet with no legs?

Revision 3: Mice have four legs, four feet, and one tail per mouse.

Mgmt comment: Confusing. Is that a total of 9 appendages?

Revision 4: Mice have four leg-foot assemblies and one tail assembly per body.

Mgmt comment: Does not fully discuss the issue.



¹ Chartered Accountant

Revision 5: Each mouse comes equipped with four legs and a tail. Each leg is equipped with a foot at the end opposite the body; the tail is not equipped with a foot.

Mgmt comment: Descriptive but not decisive.

Revision 6: Allotment for mice will be: four leg-foot assemblies, one tail. Deviation from this policy is not permitted as it would constitute mis-apportionment of scarce appendage assets.

Mgmt comment: Too authoritative, stifles creativity.

Revision 7: Mice have four feet; each foot is attached to a small leg joined integrally with the overall mouse structural sub-system. Also attached to the mouse sub-system is a thin tail, non functional and ornamental in nature.

Mgmt comment: Too verbose and scientific. Answer the question.

Final Revision: Mice have four feet.

Mgmt comment: Approved.

Embezzlement

A Mafia Godfather, accompanied by his attorney, walks into a room to meet with his accountant.

The Godfather asks the accountant, "Where is the 3 million bucks you embezzled from me?" The accountant does not answer.

The Godfather asks again, "Where is the 3 million bucks you embezzled from me?"

The attorney interrupts, "Sir, the man is a deaf mute and cannot understand you, but I can interpret for you." The Godfather says,

"Well...ask him where the damn money is" The attorney, using sign language, asks the accountant where the 3 million dollars is.

The accountant signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about."

The attorney interprets to the Godfather, "He doesn't know what you are talking about."

The Godfather pulls out a 9 millimeter pistol, puts it to the temple of the accountant, cocks the trigger and says, "Ask him again where the #\$\$@ money is!"

The attorney signs to the accountant, "He wants to know where it is!"

The accountant signs back, "OK! OK! OK!, the money is hidden in a suitcase behind the shed in my backyard!"

The Godfather says, "Well....what did he say?"

The attorney interprets to the Godfather, "He says that you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."

Heart Transplant

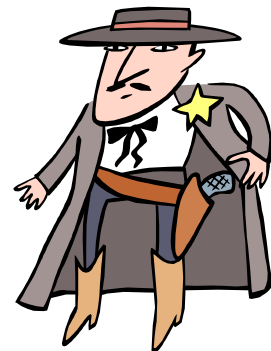
A fellow is walking into a hospital and sees two doctors down on their hands and knees in one of the flower beds. He goes over and says, "Can I help? Have you lost something?"

"No," says one of the doctors. "We're about to do a heart transplant on an accountant and we're looking for a suitable stone."

When we started looking for jokes about accountants, we found it was not easy. This is a profession which stays in the background and doesn't excite the same degree of passion as politicians or lawyers. Good for us. That's probably why we are still alive.

Not a single one of the following jokes has been created at our office – all have been stolen from various web-sites and books.

We, therefore, acknowledge the contribution of thousands of unsung, unknown heroes who created, borrowed and polished these jokes to their present state.



Envelopes

An accountant spends a week at his new office with the accountant he is replacing. On the last day the departing accountant tells him that he has left two envelopes in the desk drawer and that the envelope number 1 should be opened if he ever encounters any sort of crisis in the job and envelope number 2 if a further crisis occurs.

Three months down the line there is a major drama, all the accounts are wrong - the usual stuff - and the accountant feels very threatened by it all.

He remembers the parting words of his predecessor and finds and opens the first envelope. The message inside says "Blame me!" He does this and gets off the hook.



Three months later at his next crisis, he opens the second envelope.

The message inside says "Write two envelopes".

Counting sheep²

An accountant was walking on the countryside when he found a shepherd who had a lot of sheep. The accountant said to the farmer: "Listen farmer, I can guess how many sheep you have."

The farmer started laughing "Oh, dear! I have a lot of sheep. You will not be able to guess how many there are."

"Let's bet something: if I guess how many sheep you have, you will give me one of your sheep. If I don't, I will pay you 100 \$."

"Ok, how many sheep are there?"

"There are exactly 1354 sheep."

The shepherd was shocked: "Incredible! I really have 1354 sheep. Well, a bet's a bet. You win. Choose the sheep you want."

"Oh, I will take this one", said the accountant and he took one.

"Wait for a moment, sir", said the shepherd, "Let's do another bet: if I guess what is your job, you will give me back my sheep, and if I don't, you can take another one".

"OK."

"You are an accountant. "

"Oh, God! That's true. But, how do you know it? "

"Give me back my dog, and then I will explain it to you."

Dying without money

A doctor, a Minister, a Lawyer, and an Accountant are friends. The lawyer finds out he is dying of cancer and gives each of his friends an envelope full of money. He tells them he can't stand the thought of being without it so at his funeral would they each place the money in the coffin. They all agree.

How do you drive an accountant completely insane?

Tie him to a chair, stand in front of him and fold up a road map the wrong way.

What's an extroverted accountant?

One who looks at your shoes while he's/she's talking to you instead of his/her own.

Snatch of conversation heard by a pedestrian walking behind two accountants:

"... and, ninthly, ..."

Why are they putting the accountants at the bottom of the ocean?

They found out that deep down they're really not so bad.

² A beautiful joke, but with a tragic logical flaw. Can you figure out the flaw? If not send an e-mail accountaid@vsnl.com with the subject 'What's the flaw in 'counting sheep' joke.

At the funeral they wait until everyone else has viewed the body and each goes up one at a time. The Doctor places the thick envelope in the coffin, then the minister places his thick envelope in the coffin. Finally the accountant places his small envelope in the coffin.

After the funeral the Doctor and Minister ask the accountant what happened, for he had agreed to put the money in the coffin.

The accountant says, " But my lawyer has always taken a personal check!"

The Sleepy Player

An Attorney and an Tax Accountant are sitting next to each other on a long flight from Los Angeles to New York. The Attorney leans over to the Tax Accountant and asks if he would like to play a fun game. The Tax Accountant just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks. The Attorney persists and explains that the game is really easy and a lot of fun.

He explains 'I ask you a question , and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5.' Again, the Tax Accountant politely declines and tries to get some sleep. The Attorney, now somewhat agitated, says 'OK, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$50!' This catches the Tax Accountant's complete attention, and he sees no end to this torment unless he plays, so he agrees to the game.

The Attorney asks the first question. 'What's the distance from the earth to the moon?' The Tax Accountant doesn't say a word, reaches in to his wallet, pull out a five-dollar bill and hands it to the Attorney. Now, it's the Tax Accountant's turn. He asks the Attorney: 'What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?' The Attorney looks at him with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references. He taps into the air-phone with his modem and searches the Net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends E-mails to all his co-workers and friends he knows. All to no avail.

After over an hour, he wakes the Tax Accountant and hands him \$50. The Tax Accountant politely takes the \$50 and turns away to get back to sleep. The Attorney, more that a little miffed, shakes the Tax Accountant and asks, 'Well, so what IS the answer?'

Without a word, the Tax Accountant reaches into his wallet, hands the Attorney \$5 and goes back to sleep.

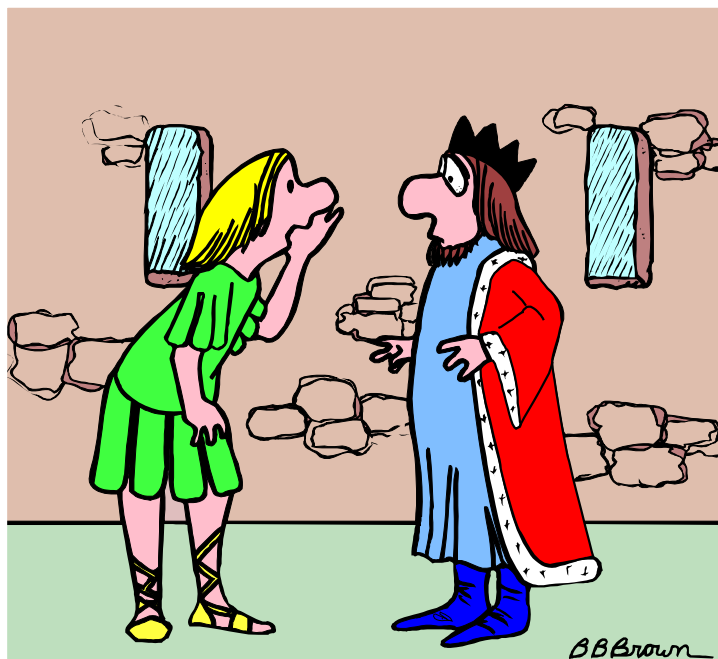


Tax-auditors?



"No, we've never been subjected to a *fax* audit before."

Auditors in Early England



"Sire, the auditors are in the counting house."

Revised format for US Audit Reports (post-Enron, WorldCom, Xerox, Merck, Adelphia,....)

We have eyeballed the ball-park figures on the balance sheet of _____ Company as at December 31, 20X2, and the related statements of lies, retained deficits and flows of executive petty cash for the year then ended.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's earnings management department. Our responsibility is to make sure we have some justification for their accounting in case we get hauled into court.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (mindful of the fact that we'd better not lose this account). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain a fuzzy feeling about whether the financial statements represent anything close to reality. An audit includes a general rationalization of the so-called accounting policies and such tests of the accounting records and other unsupported entries, as we considered unavoidable, subject to the constraints of our time budget and audit fee.

Our gut feeling is that these ball park figures are not too far out in left field and we feel fit to roll with them as the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 20X2, having been prepared in accordance with generally accepted corporate memos applied randomly on a basis consistent with that of producing a satisfactory profit for the year.

Take Care

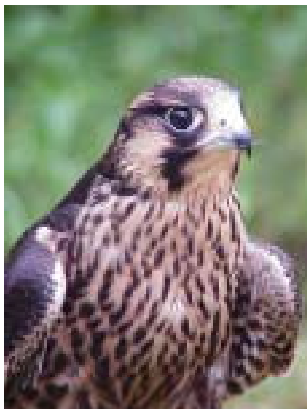
A&A

Audit Firm

February 26, 20X3



Accountants are queer birds



The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia picked **peregrine falcons** as supporters in their coat of arms in preference to wedge-tailed eagles because the former were thought to be vigilant and the latter rapacious. This is curious reasoning because the peregrine is a fierce, deadly killer that dives on its prey at tremendous speed.

Some chartered accountants think the bird in their coat of arms is a **raven**. After all, the raven is the traditional bird of commerce and has a well-deserved reputation for intelligence. It would make a good accountant - it is quick-witted, never gets caught out, knows when to be timid and is always on hand to clean up the mess.



If this isn't a suitable choice it is interesting to speculate which of the hundreds of Australian birds could have been selected to adorn the coat of arms. Rejecting the obvious, like galah and drongo, the **magpie** comes to mind. It is alert and intelligent and usually very tame but sometimes turns objectionable. It gathers in groups of various sizes depending on how productive the locality is but once the optimum number is exceeded the younger and weaker members are tossed out to fend for themselves.



If auditors are recognised as being the backbone of the profession then the willy **wagtail** could be considered. It is an extremely brave bird and will not hesitate to attack the largest and strongest foe. In fact its aggressiveness sometimes leads it into molesting quite harmless species. The aborigines used to consider the wagtail a trouble-making tale-bearer because it is insatiably curious and is always sticking its beak into other people's business.



The receivers and liquidators, if they had their choice, might pick the **bower bird**. Like them, it seizes articles it considers to be of value and carries them back to its lair, even venturing into suburban backyards to grab prized items. But unlike our colleagues, it is prone to pilfer these items from its rivals.



The tax consultants would claim the dollar bird for their own but the **fairy-wren** might suit them better. It likes to stay close to ground that it knows well and does not willingly venture far from the safety of cover. In order to advise would-be interlopers that their particular territory is occupied, the wrens advertise themselves by loud calls and seem to satisfy a need to keep in communication with others of the same species by keeping up a continuous chatter among themselves.





Photo credit: Joe Benshemesh

The accounting services people would seek a vote for a hard-working bird to represent them and one of the hardest-working birds of all is the **mallee fowl**. Its industry is truly amazing - it starts work about May preparing for the busy season ahead and from then on is faced with a life of constant toil perpetually shifting material backwards and forwards. The effort is kept up until April when the birds enjoy a brief respite before starting the cycle all over again. No one works as hard as this bird but someone should tell it that its methods date from more tropical times when jungle conditions did much of the heat-generating work. In the drier climate in which it now finds itself it has to work harder to keep the old method going while more modern birds have found much simpler ways to achieve the same results.



So there you are - the peregrine falcon wasn't such a good choice after all. Many other birds have stronger claims to represent accountants and the most appropriate one is not readily apparent. The **western warbler** would be the most accountant-like when you think of all the accountants you know. He has all the characteristics - a dull-grey, non-descript appearance; he has very few distinguishing features; he is shy and retiring; he hides in the middle of cover, is very difficult to locate and he has a call consisting of a few slow, melancholy notes that trail away into nothing before the call is finished.....