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**Collection of Limericks: Vol 1
(for Children and other Lively People)**



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The Limericks – What’s It All about?

The englishtodaycouk Limericks come, somehow, from the Gismotics Pronunciation Guide. This is a Computer Program of readings by native English people forming a Guide to English Pronunciation. the readings are based on a poem which highlights many of the irregular pronunciations of some English words. Go to www.englishtoday.co.uk to learn more about the Guide and what it can do for you.

englishtodaycouk Limericks on YouTube

The englishtodaycouk Limericks can be found on the Internet on www.youtube.com if you search for englishtodaycouk. These Limericks are videos and are read by native English speakers. They can be a help for people young and old who are learning English; but basically that is just an excuse. The truth is I like writing them!

At the end of each Limerick you can find a direct link to the YouTube video.

What is a Limerick?

A Limerick is a short poem the history of which can be found by Googling “Limerick”. There you will find all the details about Edward Lear and the couple of hundred years of Limerick history.

A Limerick has a certain form. Here is an example:

A fellow once asked his wife
What she thought was the meaning of life.
She went quiet for a time
Then with good cockney rhyme
She said, “To be a good ‘Trouble and Strife’”!

What does it mean? Well ‘Trouble and Strife’ is, rather fittingly, Cockney Rhyming Slang for ‘wife’. Not that your wife (or Mother or Girlfriend, for that matter) would give you any trouble or strife, I am sure. If you don’t know what Cockney Rhyming Slang then its back to Google for you; but, quickly, its a form of speech originating from London where words are substituted by short rhyming phrases.

The Limericks are sorted in order of difficulty with the Little Brown Bear being the easiest. If you are learning English or just want a smile then the Limericks are for you.

Have fun!

Robert and Arthur

The Little Brown Bear Limerick

The story of the Little Brown Bear is the simplest of all the limericks. The Little Brown Bear ate all the honey from the pot and was then told off by Father Bear. Little Brown Bear, however appears unrepentant. In other words, he is not sorry at all!

Little Brown Bear looked sad	
He'd been told off by his dad	he'd – shortening of “he had” told off – phrasal verb: to be punished verbally
He found the honey pot	
And ate up all the lot	ate up – phrasal verb: to eat everything.
Which he thought wasn't all that bad!	wasn't – shortening of “was not”.

Click on the link to watch the Little Brown Bear YouTube:

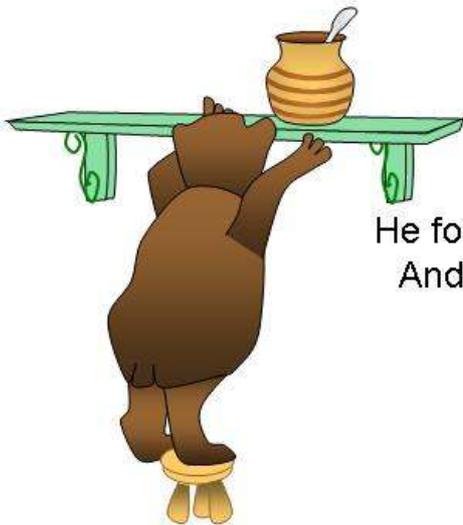
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU9RJdPEg-w>

The Little Brown Bear Limerick



Little Brown bear looked sad

He'd been told off by his dad



He found the honey pot
And ate up all the lot



Which he thought wasn't all that bad!

The Maggie the Millipede Limerick

Maggie the Millipede is tired and goes to bed, but she wears so many socks that it takes all night to take them off – well she is a millipede and millipedes have a lot of legs, hence a lot of socks.

YouTube has some great millipede video footage and there is a fine example included in englishtodaycouk's favourites.

Maggie the Millipede said	
She was tired and was going to bed	was going to bed – future tense.
When she took off her socks	took off - phrasal verb to remove clothes; her socks in this example.
And looked at the clocks	to see what time it was!
It was time to get up instead!	Get up –phrasal verb – wake up and get out of bed.

Click on the link to watch Maggie the Millipede on YouTube

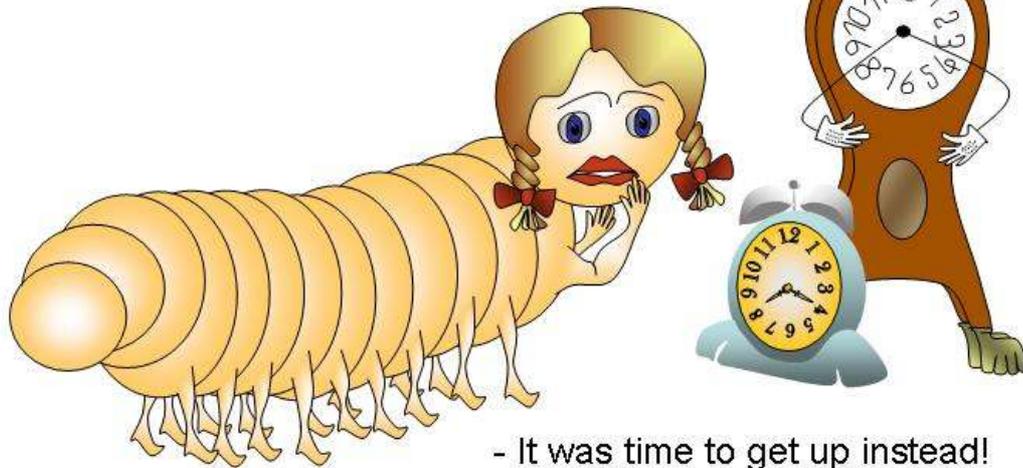
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QYF_irYdXA

The Maggie the Millipede Limerick

Maggie the Millipede said
She was tired and was going to bed



When she took off her socks
And looked at the clocks



- It was time to get up instead!

The Lion and Monkey Limerick

This set of three limericks tells the story of the Lion and the Monkey in the zoo. The poor old Lion puts up with the Monkey's teasing; but gets his own back by rudely waking the Monkey up in the middle of the night! Finally the Monkey gets the message and stops being a nuisance – but for how long?

There once was a Lion at the zoo	
Who the Monkey would tease and laugh too	A bit of poetic license here!
When the Monkey's asleep	
The Lion would creep	the Lion walked quietly
And wake him up with a big "BOO"!	wake him up
The Lion heard a knock at the door	“knock at the door” – preposition.
That Monkey was teasing some more	The Lion is getting annoyed now and the Lion calls the Monkey “That Monkey”, a rather negative term.
This time when he slept	
That big Lion crept	
And woke him up with a loud "ROAR"!	woke him up – phrasal verb, which simply means to wake someone from sleep.
Now the Lion and the Monkey are friends	
The Monkey has just made amends	made amends -
He stopped all the riot	all the riot - lots of noise and jumping about like a naughty child.
Sat down and was quiet	Sat down – phrasal verb. You can sit down on a chair sit up straight for good posture sit in a car sit (it) out and wait till the bitter end!
For five minutes at least, till it ends!	Quiet until the Monkey can no longer keep quiet!

Click on the link to watch the Lion and the Monkey Limerick on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jJgYQcnvo8>

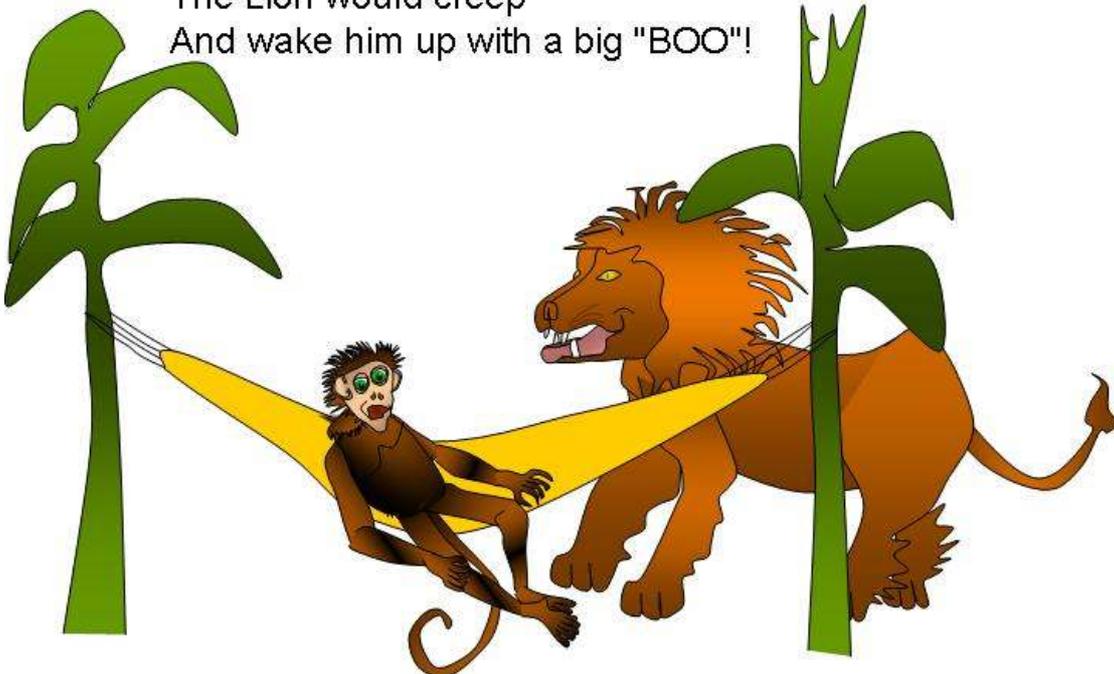
The Lion and the Monkey Limerick (1)



There once was a Lion at the zoo
Who the Monkey would tease and laugh too

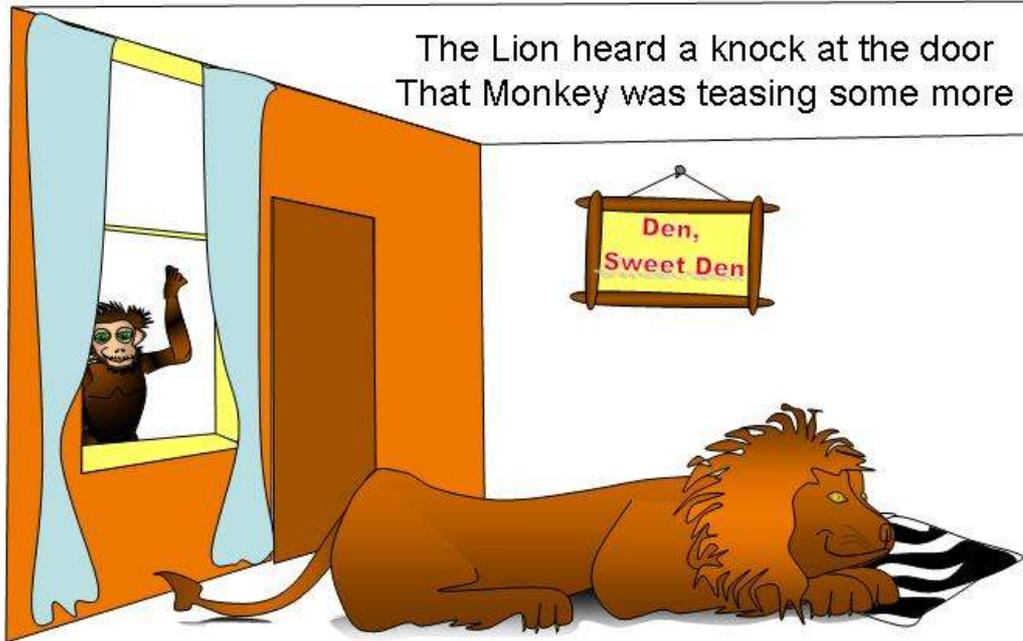


When the Monkey's asleep
The Lion would creep
And wake him up with a big "BOO"!

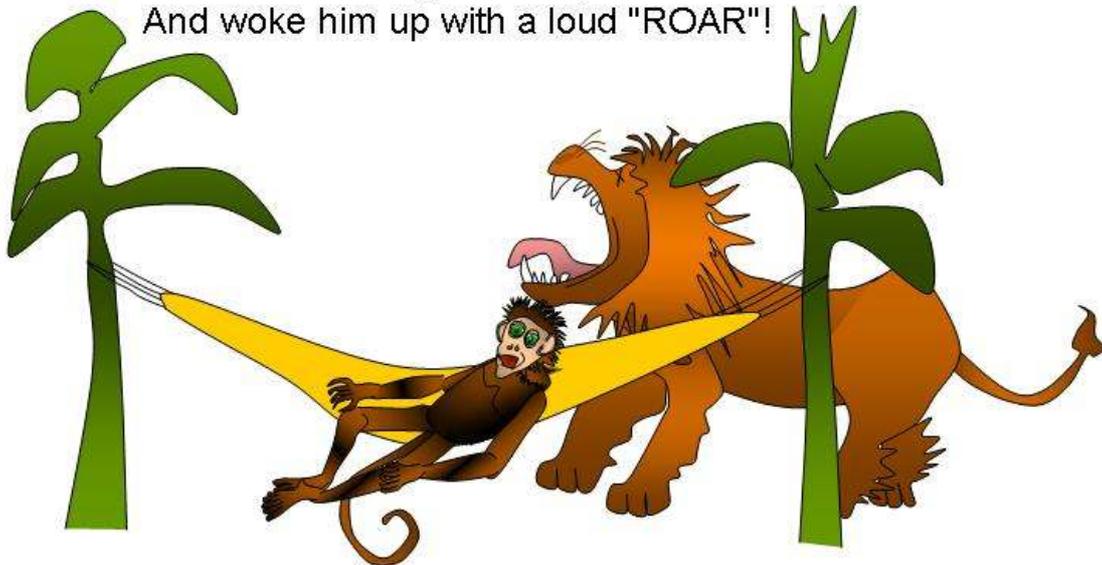


The Lion and the Monkey Limerick (2)

The Lion heard a knock at the door
That Monkey was teasing some more



This time when he slept
That big Lion crept
And woke him up with a loud "ROAR"!



The Lion and the Monkey Limerick (2)

Now the Lion and the Monkey are friends
The Monkey has just made amends
He stopped all the riot
Sat down and was quiet



For five minutes at least, till it ends!



The Maggie the Millipede Sports Limerick

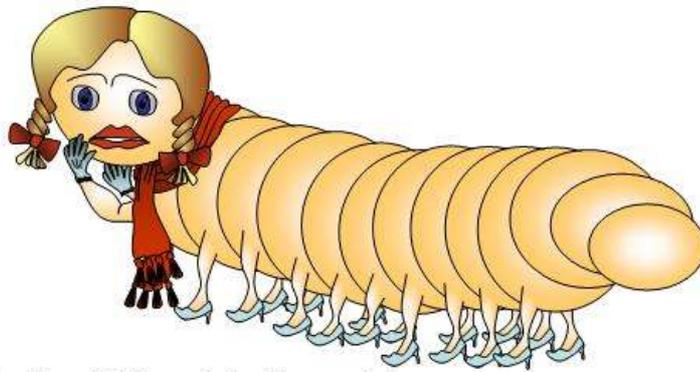
This is Maggie's second adventure and is certainly more adventurous than the first. Again a set of three, these limericks tell the story of Maggie's attempts at various sports. After a couple of misfires with tennis and skiing she finally takes to cycling.

Now Maggie the Millipede's thoughts	Her thoughts led her - she first of all had the idea and then started to take up the various sports.
Led her to try out some sports.	
At tennis she'd be great	
But it just got too late	too late (although perhaps better late than never!)
It took so long to put on the shorts!	put on – Maggie has more trouble with clothing; this time it takes too long to put on her shorts because she has so many legs!
Then Maggie thought it such a wheeze	To think something “a wheeze” is a rather old fashioned expression to think something is great.
To go skiing as fast as the breeze	go skiing
But with skis in profusion	Profusion – very many, an ample number of something. You will not do without if something exists in profusion.
All crossed in confusion	confusion – all mixed up!
She ended upside-down in the trees!	“Upside down” is the opposite of the “right way up”!
Oh dear, what could poor Maggie do?	
An idea came out of the blue!	Out of the blue means to come from from nowhere, unexpectedly.
"Cycling is fine	
On a tandem like mine –	A tandem is a bicycle made for more than one person, normally for two people.
It's a bike for five hundred <u>plus</u> two!"	Maggie certainly needs a special tandem bicycle with so many legs!

Click on the link to watch the Maggie the Millipede Sports Limerick on YouTube:

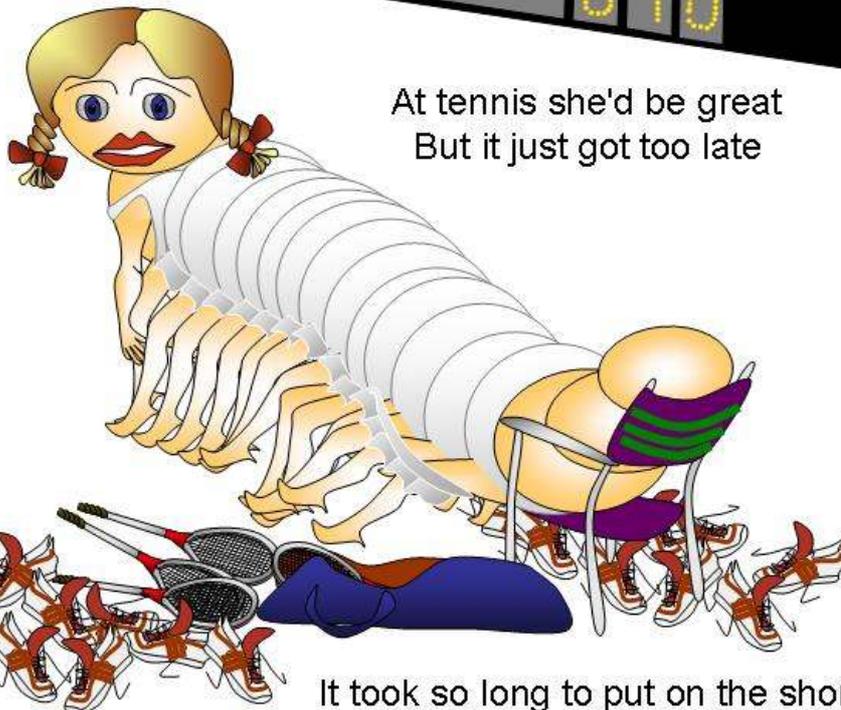
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuchRWay1-I>

The Maggie the Millipede Sports Limerick (1)



Now Maggie the Millipede's thoughts
Led her to try out some sports

Miss M Millipede	3	6	6
Miss I Bugarova	6	1	0

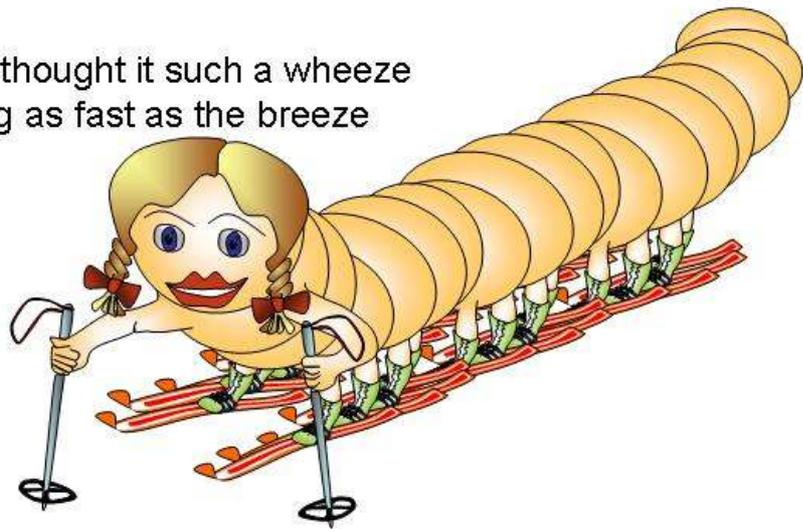


At tennis she'd be great
But it just got too late

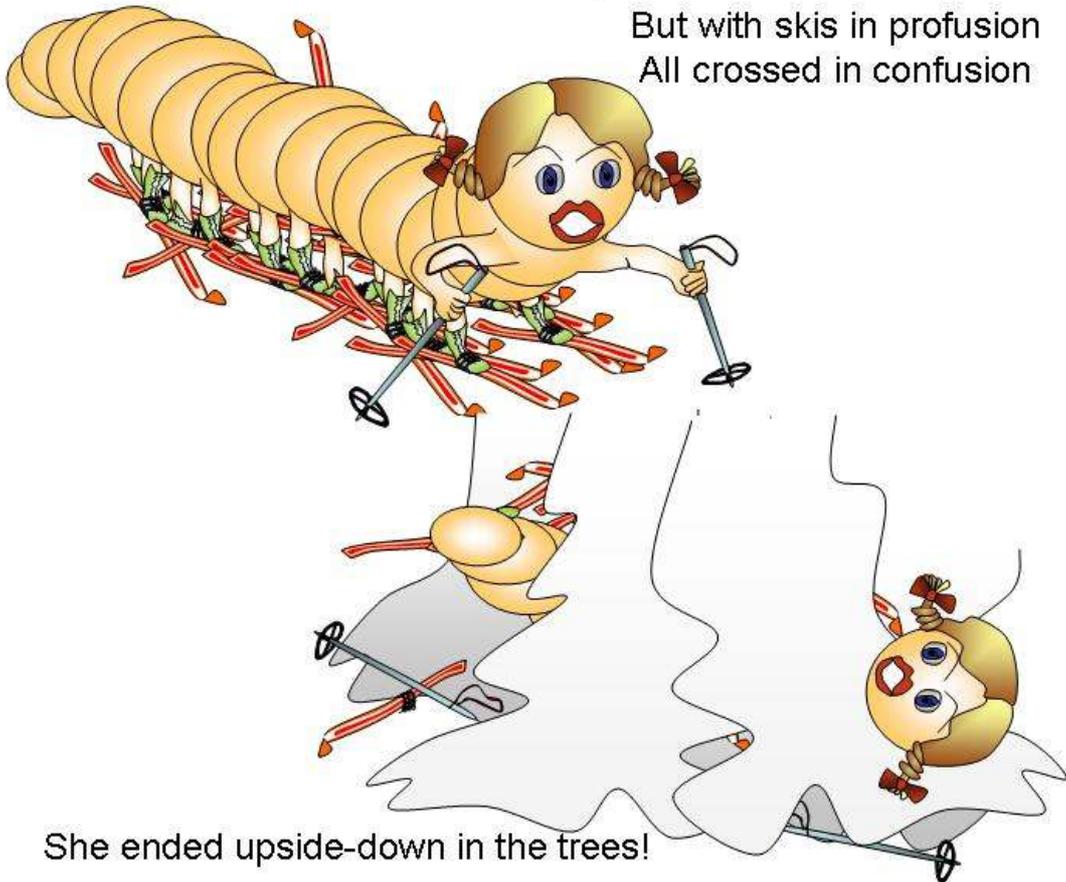
It took so long to put on the shorts!

The Maggie the Millipede Sports Limerick (2)

Then Maggie thought it such a wheeze
To go skiing as fast as the breeze

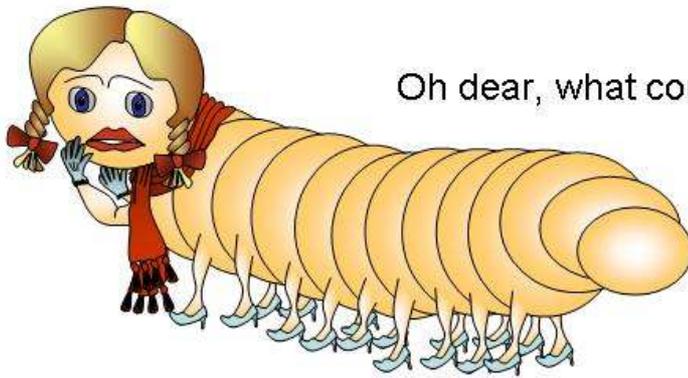


But with skis in profusion
All crossed in confusion



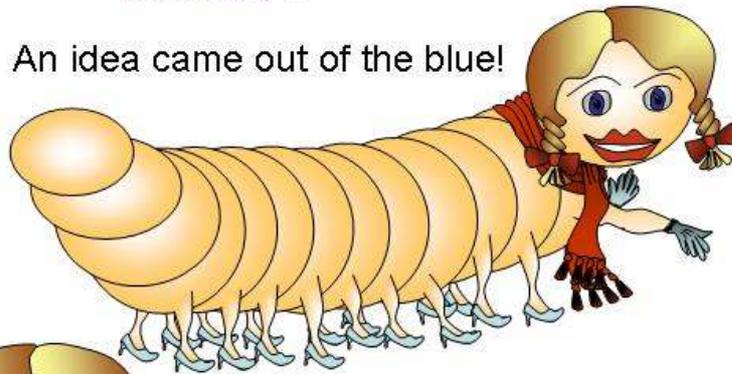
She ended upside-down in the trees!

The Maggie the Millipede Sports Limerick (3)



Oh dear, what could poor Maggie do?

An idea came out of the blue!



"Cycling is fine
On a tandem like mine -
It's a bike for five hundred plus two!"

The Aardvark Limerick

The Aardvark Limerick is based on a classic joke: an aardvark walks into a bar and the bar-tender asks "What's up? Why the long face?". Another version replaces the ardvaark with a horse, another creature which naturally has a long face. To have a long face means that you are looking unhappy.

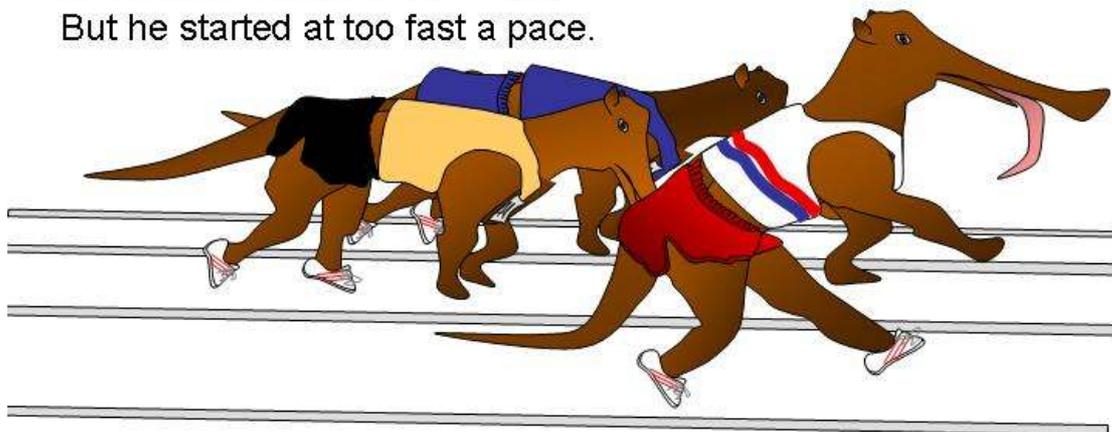
An Aardvark went in for a race	to go in for something
But he started at too fast a pace.	start at a fast pace
In a bar he collapsed	Collapsed is used figuratively. He was exhausted and sat down on a stool at the bar
Till the bartender asked:	The bartender is the guy serving behind the bar. He looks a bit of a cool character.
"What's up? Why the long face?"	"What's up" means "What's wrong?".

Click on the link to watch the Aardvark Limerick on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYM-RD0tsVY>

The Aardvark Limerick

An Aardvark went in for a race
But he started at too fast a pace.



In a bar he collapsed
Till the bartender asked:
"What's up? Why the long face?"

