The Accountant’s (Bad) Joke Book

Compiled by
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Providing Actionable Intelligence for the Tax, Accounting and Finance Community
(and a few bad jokes)
Introduction and Acknowledgements

Compiling a book of (mostly really awful) jokes, riddles and one-liners is a thankless task. But someone has to do it. And we couldn't do it alone.

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—The Editors
The Four Immutable Laws of Accounting:
1. Trial balances don't.
2. Bank reconciliations never do.
3. Working Capital doesn't.
4. Return on Investments never will.

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 an accountant.”

“Will that make me live longer?” asked the patient.

“No,” said the doctor, “but it will SEEM longer.”

An accountant visited the Natural History museum. While standing near the dinosaur, he said to his friend, “This dinosaur is 2 billion years and 10 months old.” “Where did you get this exact information?” the friend asked. “I was here 10 months ago, and the guide told me that the dinosaur is 2 billion years old.”

An accountant is having difficulty sleeping and goes to see his doctor. “Doctor, I just can’t get to sleep at night.” “Have you tried counting sheep?” “That’s the problem – I make a mistake and then spend three hours trying to find it.”
An accountant applies for the position of Chief Financial Officer. There are a number of candidates and he is called in for an interview. They ask him a number of questions and one of the panel suddenly says “What is eight times five?”

He thinks quickly and says “Forty.” When the interview is over he goes outside, takes out his calculator and finds the correct answer is not forty. He thinks, “Well, I blew that,” and goes home very disappointed.

Next day he gets a call and is told he got the job. “Wonderful,” he says, “but what about eight times five? My answer wasn’t right.”

“We know, but of all the candidates you came the closest.”

“Why do accountants make good lovers?”
“ They’re great with figures.”

“Why don’t accountants read novels?”
“Because the only numbers in them are page numbers.”

A guy in a bar leans over to the guy next to him and says, “Want to hear an accountant joke?” The guy next to him replies, “Well, before you tell that joke, you should know that I’m 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, and I’m an accountant. And the guy sitting next to me is 6 feet 2 inches tall, 225 pounds, and he’s an accountant. Now, do you still want to tell that joke?” The first guy says, “No, I don’t want to have to explain it two times.”
“How do accountants deal with their spouses’ insomnia?”
“They tell them about their work.”

A 54-year-old accountant left a letter for his wife one evening which read: “Dear Wife, I am 54 years old, and by the time you get this letter I will be at the Grand Hotel with my beautiful and sexy 18-year-old secretary.” When he arrived at the hotel, there was a letter waiting for him that read, “Dear Husband, I too am 54 years old, and by the time you receive this letter I will be at the Savoy Hotel with my 18-year-old boy toy. Because you are an accountant, you will surely appreciate that 18 goes into 54 many more times than 54 goes into 18.”

“What is a budget?”
“An orderly system for living beyond your means.”

“How many accountants does it take to change a light bulb?”
“Two. One to change the light bulb, and one to check that it was done within budget.”
“What’s the definition of an accountant?”
“Someone who solves a problem you didn’t know you had in a way you don’t understand.”

“What’s the definition of a good tax accountant?”
“Someone who has a loophole named after him.”
“How does a person decide to become an accountant?”
“When he realizes he doesn’t have the charisma to succeed as an actuary.”

“Why did God create economists?”
“So accountants could have someone to laugh at.”

“What’s an actuary?”
“An accountant without the sense of humor.”

“Why do some accountants decide to become actuaries?”
“They find bookkeeping too exciting.”

“What do actuaries do to liven up their office parties?”
“Invite an accountant.”

“What does an accountant use for birth control?”
“His personality.”

“What do you call an accountant who is seen talking to someone?”
“Popular.”
“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 does an accountant say when you ask him the time?”
“It’s 7:13 a.m. and 32 seconds – no wait... 33 seconds – no wait... 34 seconds...”

The accountant’s prayer: Lord, help me be more relaxed about insignificant details, starting tomorrow at 10:53 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Conversation between two accountants at a cocktail party: “And ninthly...”

“What do accountants suffer from that ordinary people don’t?”
“Depreciation.”

“How do you know accountants have no imagination?”
“They named a firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.”

There are three kinds of accountants in the world. Those who can count and those who can’t.
“What do you call an accountant without a spreadsheet?”
“Lost.”

“How can you tell when the managing partner is getting soft?”
“When he actually listens to the marketing director before saying no.”

“When do accountants laugh out loud?”
“When somebody asks for a raise.”

“What would economics be without assumptions?”
“Accounting.”

“Why did the auditor cross the road?”
“Because he looked in the file and that’s what they did last year.”

“Why did he cross back?”
“So he could charge the client for travel expenses.”

“How many auditors does it take to change a light bulb?”
“How many did it take last year?”

“How many cost accountants does it take to change a light bulb?”
“Hmmmm ... I’ll just do a few numbers and get back to you.”
“What’s a shy and retiring accountant?”
“An accountant who is half a million shy and that’s why he’s retiring.”

A business owner tells a friend that his company is looking for a new accountant. The friend asks, “Didn’t your company hire a new accountant a few weeks ago?” The business owner replies, “That’s the accountant we’re looking for!”

A Martian lands to plunder, pillage and burn. He approaches the owner of the first house he sees and says, “I’m a Martian. We’re here to destroy your civilization, pillage and burn. What do you think about that?” The owner replies, “I don’t have an opinion. I’m a CPA.”

The accountant read the story of Cinderella to his 4-year-old daughter. The little girl was fascinated by the tale, especially the part where the pumpkin turns into a golden coach. “Daddy,” she asked. “When the pumpkin turned into a golden coach, would that be classed as income or a long-term capital gain?”

Accountant after reading nursery rhymes to his young child: “No, son. When Little Bo Peep lost her sheep, that wouldn’t be tax deductible. But I like your thinking.”

Wife to husband as they watch their young son playing: “He’s such a sensitive child. Let’s wait until he’s older before we tell him you’re an accountant.”
“The auditors have just left, sir.”
“Did they check the books?”
“Very thoroughly.”
“What did they say?”
“They want 15% to keep quiet.”

The doctor meets with his heart transplant patient. “It doesn’t happen often, but we have two viable donors for your new heart. One was a teacher and the other was an accountant.”

“I’ll take the accountant’s heart,” says the patient. “I want one that hasn’t been used.”

An auditor is checking the books of an airline. He is puzzled by the excess use of fuel on a New York to Seattle flight and asks the pilot for an explanation. “It was late. Seattle was covered in fog, and I lost my bearings.” “I’m sorry,” says the auditor, “but you’ll have to bear the cost yourself.” “The cost of what?” asks the pilot. “Of the bearings you lost.”

“What’s the difference between an introverted accountant and an extroverted accountant?”

“The introverted accountant looks at his shoes when he’s talking to you; the extroverted accountant looks at your shoes when he’s talking to you.”
Harry was the chief accountant of a Fortune 500 company. Every day, on arriving at work, he would unlock the top drawer of his desk, peer at something inside, then close and lock the drawer. He had done this for 25 years. The entire accounting staff was intrigued but no one was bold enough to ask him what was in the drawer. Finally the time came for Harry to retire. There was a farewell party with speeches and a gold watch. As soon as Harry had left the building the staffers rushed into his office, unlocked the top drawer and peered in. Taped to the bottom of the drawer was a sheet of paper. It read, “The debit side is the one nearest the window.”

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of division manager. He asked each applicant the question, “What is two and two?” The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was “Twenty-two.” The second was a social worker. She said, “I don’t know the answer but I’m glad we had time to discuss this important question.” The third applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a slide rule and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001. The next person was a lawyer. He stated that in the case of Jenkins v. Jones, two and two was proven to be four. The last applicant was an accountant. The businessman asked him, “How much is two and two?” The accountant rose, closed the door, then sat back down. He leaned across the desk and said in a low voice, “How much do you want it to be?” He got the job.
A man walking along a country road comes across a shepherd. He stops to chat for a few minutes, then says, “I’ll bet you $100 against one of your sheep that I can tell you the exact number in that flock.” The shepherd thinks for a moment and agrees to the bet. “Nine hundred and thirty two,” the man says. The surprised shepherd says, “I don’t know how you did it, but that’s exactly right. A bet’s a bet. Take any sheep.” The man picks up an animal and starts to leave when the shepherd says, “Bet you double or nothing that I can guess your occupation.” The man agrees. “You’re an auditor with a Big Four firm,” the shepherd says. The man is taken aback. “How the heck did you know that?” he asks. “Well,” says the shepherd, “Put my dog down and I’ll tell you.”

An accountant goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The owner shows him three identical parrots on a perch and says, “The parrot on the left costs $500.” “Why does that parrot cost so much?” asks the accountant. “Well,” replies the owner, “It knows how to do complex audits.” “How much does the middle parrot cost?” asks the accountant. “That one costs $1,000 because it can do everything the first one can do, plus it knows how to prepare financial forecasts.” The startled accountant asks about the third parrot. “It costs $4,000,” says the shop owner. “What can it do?” the accountant asks. “To be honest, I’ve never seen him do a darn thing. But the other two call him Senior Partner.”
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The audit partner, the tax partner and the senior partner go out to lunch. On the way, they see a brass lamp in the gutter, pick it up and give it a rub. Instantly, a genie appears and grants each partner one wish.

The audit partner says, “Take me to the Cayman Islands, give me a hot young tennis coach, an endless supply of fine Scotch, and leave me there forever.” Poof! The audit partner is gone in a flash of light and a puff of smoke. The tax partner tells the genie, “Take me to the Bahamas, give me a hot young massage therapist and an endless supply of offshore tax schemes, and leave me there forever.” Poof! In a flash of light and a puff of smoke, the tax partner is gone. The genie turns to the senior partner. “And what do you want?” “I want those two back in the office right after lunch.”

An internal auditor for a manufacturing group was concerned about anomalies in stock levels. He thought someone might be stealing, but he couldn’t prove it. He had his eye on one shifty-looking man who every day drove his old truck out of the factory with the load covered by a tarpaulin. Time after time, the auditor stopped him, made him remove the tarp, then inspected the load, but he never found anything amiss. After a few months, the auditor took a better job elsewhere. A few weeks later, he was drinking in a bar when the shifty character walked in. On impulse, the auditor went up to him and said, “Look, I’ve left the company, I’m not interested in turning you in, but I just have to know: What were you taking?” The man laughed said, “Tarpaulins.”
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A young accountant fresh out of college is interviewed by the owner of a small business. “I need someone with an accounting degree,” says the man. “But mainly, I’m looking for someone to do my worrying for me. I have lots of things to worry about, but I want someone else to worry about money matters.” “OK,” says the accountant. “How much are you offering?” “You can start at $75,000,” says the owner. “That’s a great salary!” says the young accountant. “How can a business like yours afford to pay so much?” “That,” says the man, “is your first worry.”

A young accountant fresh out of college applied for his first job at an accounting firm. The managing partner asked him what starting salary he was looking for. “Oh, around $150,000 a year, depending on the benefits package,” the kid replied. The managing partner didn’t bat an eye. “We’re offering five weeks vacation, 200% matches on your 401(k) vested from your start date, paid expenses to overseas conferences every year, all cell phone and home computer expenses paid, and use of a company-owned Mercedes convertible replaced every 20,000 miles.” The graduate sat straight up and exclaimed, “Wow! Are you kidding?” “Yeah,” said the managing partner. “But you started it.”

A tourist, visiting a small town in Israel, came upon a statue dedicated to “The Unknown Soldier.” At the base of the statue was a sign: “Here lies Seymour Ruthenberg.” The tourist asked a local resident how it was possible that an unknown soldier had a name. The guide replied, “As a soldier, that Seymour was pretty much unknown, but as an accountant – Oy! He was something.”
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