

Punning the "Bodies" of Inanimate Objects

The anatomy of the human body is used to describe inanimate objects, which creates a perfect opportunity for riddle puns. Here are some examples:

- **needles** have "eyes" as in this riddle:
It cannot see, although it has an eye; if it stabs you, you might cry.
- **chairs** have "arms" and "legs" as in this riddle:
I stand on four legs, my arms reach out towards you; high and low, all bow for me, but I never bow for anyone.
- **coins** have "faces," "heads" and "tails" as in this riddle:
I have two faces but only one head and a tail. Who am I?

Because some of these terms can apply to multiple objects — hurricanes and needles both have "eyes," for example — you might need to add extra clues to help point to the correct answer. For example:

- **It has an eye but still can't see just where it's going while lightning flashes and winds are blowing.**
Answer. A hurricane.

You can also play with body parts that are present and expected body parts that are missing; for example:

- **What has a spine but no bones?**
Answer. A book.

There is also a related spelling pun riddle, where the letter "I" is used for "eye," as in the following example:

- **Who has five eyes but cannot see?**
Answer. The Mississippi River.

Finally, there are riddles based on verbal actions for actors that do not have the body part you would expect to carry out that action. For example:

- **Who can leap and run but has no feet?**

Answer. A ball.

To make riddles about the body parts of inanimate bodies, you need to be aware of the things that have body parts; here is a list that might give you some ideas:

- **head:** bed, lettuce, pin, nail, coin, hammer, drum
- **face:** clock, mirror, coin, mountain, cliff, playing card
- **eye:** hurricane, needle, potato, pea
- **mouth:** river, cave
- **teeth:** comb, saw, rake,
- **ear:** corn
- **neck:** bottle, shirt,
- **back:** chair
- **spine:** book
- **heart:** lettuce
- **skin:** potato, onion, grape
- **arm:** shirt, chair
- **hand:** clock
- **fingers:** glove
- **leg:** bed, chair, pants
- **foot:** bed, yard (3 feet)
- **tail:** coin, kite
- **wing:** building

Here are some more examples to spark your imagination:

- **What has three feet but no legs?** *Answer.* A yardstick.
- **What has ears but cannot hear?** *Answer.* Corn.
- **A neck and no head, two arms and no hands. What is it?** *Answer.* A shirt.
- **Four fingers and a thumb, yet flesh and blood I have none. Who am I?**
Answer. A glove.
- **Who has four legs and a back but cannot walk?** *Answer.* A chair.
- **Four legs and a foot, but it can't walk; it has a head but cannot see or talk.**
Answer. A bed.
- **I have a mouth but do not speak; I have a bed but do not sleep.** *Answer.* A river.
- **What has eighty legs but cannot walk?** *Answer.* Forty pairs of pants.
- **My teeth are sharp; my back is straight; to cut things up, that is my fate.**
Answer. A saw.

- **I have so many teeth, but I have no tongue, and I cannot eat. Instead, I keep you tidy. Who am I?** *Answer.* A comb
- **I have a face, but no eyes, no ears, no nose; I keep track of something but no one knows where it goes.** *Answer.* A clock.
- **Who has a face but no head, hands but no feet, yet travels everywhere and runs while it works?** *Answer.* A wristwatch
- **Who's got a heart in his head?** *Answer.* A head of lettuce.