



**1** Read the text and choose the correct word.

## APRIL FOOL'S DAY Hoaxes

April Fool's Day takes place on the first day of April. It is a time to **1) play/do** tricks and practical jokes on family and friends. However, sometimes, groups like businesses, news organisations or even city **2) councils/boards** will play a prank on the public, too! Read on to learn more about some of the most famous April Fool's Day hoaxes.

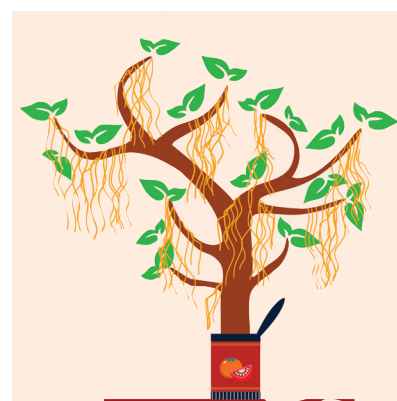
### An Extraordinary Bath

The first recorded April Fool's Day hoax happened in 1698 at the Tower of London in England. Today, the tower may be **3) home/house** only to ravens, but in the 17th century it housed many wild animals from all over the world, **4) including/covering** a polar bear, an elephant and even lions. The lions were the subject of the very first April Fool's Day hoax. Citizens of London were sent invitations to **5) attend/look** a special event – the washing of the lions in the moat around the tower early in the morning on 1st April. Little **6) do/did** they know there was no such occasion, and those who showed up for the event left disappointed and a bit embarrassed. The hoax was so successful that it was repeated over and over **7) in/for** decades. After a while, the locals all joined in on the joke and tourists became the target rather **8) than/from** residents of the city.



### An Unusual Harvest

The media began to join in on the fun of April Fool's Day hoaxes during the 20th century with news **9) stories/myths** presented as if they were real. For example, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) played a prank on viewers on 1st April 1957 with a story about the mild winter's effect **10) on/in** an unusual crop in Switzerland. The 3-minute segment presented a Swiss spaghetti farmer who was blessed with an "exceptionally heavy spaghetti crop". Since spaghetti was still **11) held/considered** an exotic food in Britain at the time, many viewers were completely fooled by the hoax and called into the BBC to find out where they could get a spaghetti tree for themselves so they could **12) raise/grow** the pasta in their own gardens.



**2** **ICT** Read the news headlines below and guess which ones are real and which ones are April Fool's Day hoaxes. Check your answers online.

**1** ☐ CAT HAS BEEN MAYOR OF ALASKAN TOWN FOR 15 YEARS

**3** ☐ MUMMIFIED FAIRY FOUND IN DERBYSHIRE

**5** ☐ 8-FOOT-TALL LEGO MAN FOUND ON FLORIDA BEACH

**2** ☐ FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT INTRODUCES HAMBURGER FOR LEFT-HANDERS

**4** ☐ FISH JUMPS OUT OF WATER AND HITS TEEN IN THE HEAD

**6** ☐ SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW SPECIES OF FLYING PENGUINS

**3** **ICT** Research online to find more April Fool's Day hoaxes and real strange news, and make your own headlines. Then, tell the class and let them guess which ones are real and which ones are hoaxes.