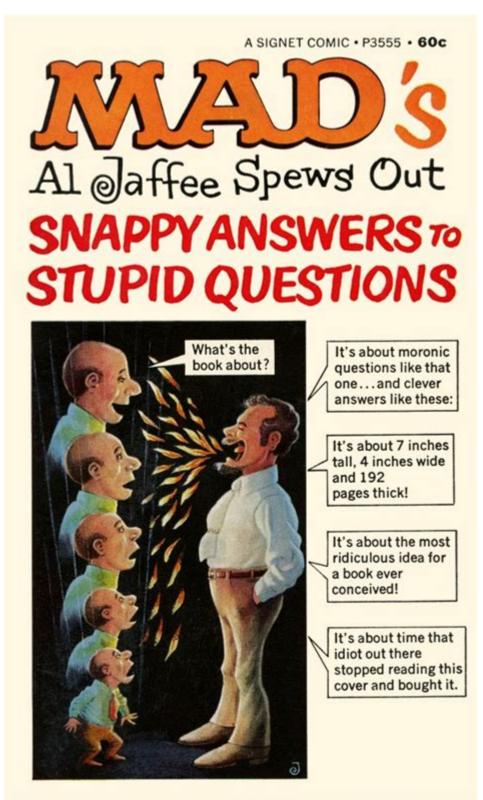
Snappy Answers To Stupid Questions



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Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions: A Guide to Witty Retorts and Deflecting Nonsense

We've all been there. That awkward moment when a question so incredibly inane lands in your lap that your brain momentarily short-circuits. Whether it's a coworker's bizarre observation, a relative's outdated opinion, or a stranger's frankly offensive query, knowing how to respond with wit and grace (or at least a swift, satisfying put-down) is a valuable life skill. This blog post isn't about being rude; it's about mastering the art of deflecting stupidity with style and, perhaps, a touch of humor. We'll provide you with snappy answers to stupid questions, equipping you with the arsenal you need to navigate the minefield of nonsensical inquiries.

Understanding the Art of the Snappy Answer

Before diving into specific responses, it's crucial to understand the underlying principles of a successful snappy answer. It's not just about being quick; it's about being clever, concise, and, most importantly, appropriate to the context. A sarcastic retort might work with close friends, but could be disastrous in a professional setting. The best snappy answers:

Are brief and to the point: Avoid lengthy explanations. The less you say, the more impactful your response will be.

Utilize humor (carefully): A well-placed joke can disarm a situation, but ensure your humor isn't offensive or condescending.

Employ deflection: Sometimes, the best answer isn't a direct one. Redirect the conversation or subtly change the subject.

Maintain composure: Even if the question is infuriating, maintain a calm and controlled demeanor. Losing your cool often gives the instigator the upper hand.

Snappy Answers for Common Stupid Questions

Here are some examples of snappy answers categorized by the type of question:

The Obvious Questions:

Question: "Is the sky blue?" Answer: "Only on a clear day." (Implies a level of deeper understanding) Question: "Does a bear poop in the woods?" Answer: "Only if he's lost his sense of direction." (Humorous and unexpected)

Question: "Is water wet?" Answer: "Depends on your definition of 'wet'." (Raises a philosophical question and deflects)

The Irrelevant or Intrusive Questions:

Question: "Why are you so quiet today?" Answer: "I'm conserving my energy for more important matters." (Subtly superior)

Question: "What do you do for a living?" (when you'd rather not discuss) Answer: "I'm a professional question-answerer... this one's proving particularly challenging." (Self-deprecating humor) Question: "Are you single?" (From a stranger) Answer: "My relationship status is none of your business." (Direct and firm)

The Absurd or Illogical Questions:

Question: "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound?" Answer: "Philosophically speaking, yes. Practically speaking, it makes vibrations." (Clever and slightly condescending)

Question: "Why don't they make cars out of wood anymore?" Answer: "Because trees aren't as good at withstanding collisions as steel." (Logical and humorous)

Question: "What's the meaning of life?" Answer: "42." (The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy reference is always a good deflection)

The Power of Silence (Sometimes)

Sometimes, the most effective "snappy answer" is no answer at all. A thoughtful pause, a raised eyebrow, or a simple, "Hmm," can be far more effective than a verbal retort, particularly if the question is intended to provoke. This technique is best used when dealing with someone who is deliberately trying to irritate you.

Conclusion:

Mastering the art of responding to stupid questions with wit and grace is a skill that will serve you well throughout life. It's about finding the balance between being polite and assertive, humorous and insightful. Practice makes perfect; the more you refine your technique, the more confident and effective you'll become at deflecting nonsense with style. Remember, the goal isn't to be mean, but to efficiently and elegantly navigate the deluge of inane inquiries that life throws our way.

FAQs:

- 1. What if the person asking the question is genuinely confused or uninformed? In this case, patience and a helpful explanation are usually better than a sarcastic reply. Adjust your response based on the person's intent and your relationship with them.
- 2. How can I avoid appearing rude when giving a snappy answer? Maintain a friendly tone of voice

and body language. Even a sarcastic remark can be delivered politely. A light smile can go a long way.

- 3. Is it always necessary to answer every stupid question? Absolutely not. Sometimes, ignoring a question is the best response, especially if it's irrelevant or intrusive.
- 4. What if the question is offensive or hurtful? You have the right to refuse to answer. A simple "I'm not comfortable answering that" is perfectly acceptable.
- 5. Where can I find more resources for improving my wit and communication skills? Look for books on comedy writing, improv techniques, and communication strategies. Many online courses and workshops can also help sharpen your verbal skills.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Al Jaffee's Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions, 1975 snappy answers to stupid questions: Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions Al Jaffee, 1987-06-15 You'll be glad you asked--because the king of snappy comebacks is on the warpath again with MAD magazine's fifth edition of Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions.

snappy answers to stupid questions: *Tall Tales* Al Jaffee, 2015-01-06 An anthology of the innovative vertical comic strip by the legendary MAD Magazine contributor—with an introduction by Stephen Colbert. Tall Tales was a one-of-a-kind newspaper strip that could only have come from the mind of Al Jaffee. While other newspaper strips are square, single-panel or multiple-panel horizontal gag cartoons, Jaffee, known for the Fold-In in MAD Magazine, once again altered the format of his work to create a vertical strip—the first, and last, in newspaper history. The original comic strip was syndicated internationally by the New York Herald Tribune from 1957–1963. This anthology contains the best 120 wordless strips out of over 2,200, scanned from the original files. The book features a new preface by Jaffee and an introduction by Stephen Colbert.

snappy answers to stupid questions: <u>Tomfoolery</u> Alvin Schwartz, 1975-01-01 snappy answers to stupid questions: A Pretentious Compendium of Mad's Very Best Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions Al Jaffee, 1986

snappy answers to stupid questions: Al Jaffee's Mad Life Mary-Lou Weisman, 2011-10-04 Since 1955, when his work began enlivening the pages of MAD magazine, Al Jaffee has pickled three generations of American kids in the brine of satire—and he continues to bring millions of childhoods to untimely ends with the knowledge that parents are hypocrites, teachers are dummies, politicians are liars, and life isn't fair. Jaffee has a life story that is truly bizarre, that reads like a comic strip of traumatic cliff-hangers with cartoons by Jaffee and captions by Freud—from his traumatic childhood as a reverse immigrant to finding his adult place at the forefront of a movement that would forever change the face of humor and cartooning in America. A cliff-hanger of a life deserves a page-turner of a biography, and that's precisely what Mary-Lou Weisman and Al Jaffee have delivered.

snappy answers to stupid questions: <u>Planet Tad</u> Tim Carvell, 2014-11-21 Twelve-year-old Tad navigates a year filled with girl problems, school antics, and the worst summer job in history, all told in the form of hilarious, illustrated blog entries.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Mad's All New Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions Al Jaffee, 1989 Do stupid questions bother you? Do you feel like stoning the next cluck who asks one? Well never fear, MAD is here with a whole new set of comebacks for dumb questions.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Foolish Questions Rube Goldberg, 2009-06 Rube Goldberg's classic 'Foolish Questions' collection.

snappy answers to stupid questions: 1001 Insults, Put-Downs, & Comebacks Steven D. Price, 2007-04-01 "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."—Groucho Marx An insult can be offensive and infuriating, but it means nothing if you have a better comeback. 1001 Insults, Put-Downs, and Comebacks gathers together the very sharpest of these barbs from a wide

variety of sources, with some of the wickedest put-downs from the literary, political, and entertainment worlds, along with many others.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Dearest Creature Amy Gerstler, 2009-09-29 A surreal new collection from an acclaimed poet Hallucinogenic plants chant in chorus. A thoughtful dog grants an interview. A caterpillar offers life advice. Amy Gerstler's newest collection of poetry, Dearest Creature, marries fact and fiction in a menagerie of dramatic monologues, twisted love poems, and epistolary pleadings. Drawing on sources as disparate as Lewis Carroll and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, as well as abnormal psychology, etiquette, and archaeology texts, these darkly imaginative poems probe what it means to be a sentient, temporary, flesh-and-blood beast, to be hopelessly, vividly creaturely.

snappy answers to stupid questions: *Mad - Fold This Book!* Al Jaffee, 1997 Al Jaffee's Fold-Ins have been a staple of the phenomenally successful MAD magazine since 1964. Fold This Book! contains the best of the Fold-Ins, culled from more than 350 issues of the legendary satire magazine. Illustrations throughout, many in color.

snappy answers to stupid questions: This Will Not Look Good on My Resume Jass Richards, 2010-11-01 Everyone gets fired at least once in their life. And if not, well, they're just not trying very hard. And we all think of brilliant and immature 'shoulda saids' and 'shoulda dones' for weeks after. (Okay, years.) A quirky bit of fun that slaps you upside the head. Ya made me snort root beer out my nose! Moriah Jovan, The Proviso Wonderful read, funny, sarcastic. Loved it! Charlie, Smashwords Shortlisted for the Rubery Book Award 2021

snappy answers to stupid questions: The Snark Handbook: Insult Edition Lawrence Dorfman, 2010-10-13 The beloved Snark Handbook is back in a new edition--making readers smarterand, more importantly, better than everyone else.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Last Bus to Wisdom Ivan Doig, 2016-08-16 Named a Best Book of the Year by the Seattle Times and Kirkus Review The final novel from a great American storyteller. Donal Cameron is being raised by his grandmother, the cook at the legendary Double W ranch in Ivan Doig's beloved Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a landscape that gives full rein to an eleven-year-old's imagination. But when Gram has to have surgery for "female trouble" in the summer of 1951, all she can think to do is to ship Donal off to her sister in faraway Manitowoc, Wisconsin. There Donal is in for a rude surprise: Aunt Kate-bossy, opinionated, argumentative, and tyrannical—is nothing like her sister. She henpecks her good-natured husband, Herman the German, and Donal can't seem to get on her good side either. After one contretemps too many, Kate packs him back to the authorities in Montana on the next Greyhound. But as it turns out, Donal isn't traveling solo: Herman the German has decided to fly the coop with him. In the immortal American tradition, the pair light out for the territory together, meeting a classic Doigian ensemble of characters and having rollicking misadventures along the way. Charming, wise, and slyly funny, Last Bus to Wisdom is a last sweet gift from a writer whose books have bestowed untold pleasure on countless readers.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Hey Quit Clowning Around! David Magidson, 2014-11-25 Do you ever get caught unprepared when a child asks, Why are your shoes so big? or some wise guy shouts, Quit Clowning Around! as you unload 400 pounds of clown gear? That never needs to happen again! Commit a few of these GOTCHAS to memory, sit back and let the laughter roll in. You'll get more bookings; your wife won't leave you because you're making more money, your teenagers will come out of their rooms because you're in such a good mood and the dog will do his business on your least favorite neighbor's lawn. Life will be good. All because of me. You're welcome

snappy answers to stupid questions: Peter Pitched a Tent Bimisi Tayanita, Matt Williams, 2020-10-15 Never make eye contact with a boy while eating a banana.--Olivia WilliamsBimisi and Sumguyen experienced a rare and fleeting moment of sobriety during which they decided to write about something the masses can relate to. While their research did require the navigation of some very murky waters...they definitively concluded that Catholic priests, mall Santas, boy scout leaders and dudes named Caitlyn makeup a very small percentage of the global population.In contrast, 97%

of the people on the planet are, have been or will be a 13 year old boy; or they know, have known or will know a 13 year old boy. Coincidently, and Independent of this statistic, 97% of the population can appreciate the truth-driven humor of Peter Pitched a Tent. The other 3% are already posting nasty-grams on the internet about the very existence of this book...Go get 'em, Karen.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Disturbingly Awful MAD Usual Gang of Idiots, Usual Gang of Idiots Staff, 2013 The pages inside were chosen by a special committee asked to make sure the pages inside could all be described as disturbingly awful from the disturbingly awful magazine that inspired the hit Cartoon Network show.--Back cover.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Nate the Great and the Pillowcase Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, Rosalind Weinman, 1995-11-01 Join the world's greatest detective, Nate the Great, as he solves the mystery of the missing pillowcase! Perfect for beginning readers and the Common Core, this long-running chapter book series will encourage children to problem-solve with Nate, using logical thinking to solve mysteries! CAN NATE SOLVE THE CASE BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP? It's two o'clock in the morning when the telephone rings and Nate the Great learns that Rosamond's pillowcase is missing. Outside, it is damp, dark, and dreary, but a good (yawning) sleuth knows that the hunt must go on. Can Nate find the missing case before his bedroom slippers wear out? Visit Nate the Great and Sludge! NatetheGreatBooks.com Praise for the Nate the Great Series ["Kids will like Nate the Great." —School Library Journal, Starred "A consistently entertaining series." —Booklist "Loose, humorous chalk and watercolor spots help turn this beginning reader into a page-turner." —Publishers Weekly "Nate, Sludge, and all their friends have been delighting beginning readers for years." —Kirkus Reviews "They don't come any cooler than Nate the Great." —The Huffington Post

snappy answers to stupid questions: Intensely Dumb MAD Usual Gang of Idiots, 2013-10-15 The Usual Gang of Idiots brings you a collection of classic MAD humor for all ages! Perfect for ALL AGES—this book has been 'scrubbed clean' for everyone to enjoy.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? Caitlin Doughty, 2019 Bestselling author and mortician Doughty answers real questions from kids about death, dead bodies, and decomposition.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Out Loud Mark Morris, Wesley Stace, 2019-11-19 Before Mark Morris became the most successful and influential choreographer alive (The New York Times), he was a six year-old in Seattle cramming his feet into Tupperware glasses so that he could practice walking on pointe. Moving to New York at nineteen, he arrived to one of the great booms of dance in America. . Morris was flat broke but found a group of likeminded artists that danced together, travelled together, slept together. This collective, led by Morris's fiercely original vision, became the famed Mark Morris Dance Group. Suddenly, Morris was making a fast ascent. Celebrated by The New Yorker's critic as one of the great young talents, an androgynous beauty in the vein of Michelangelo's David, he and his company had arrived. Collaborations with the likes of Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yo-Yo Ma, Lou Harrison, and Howard Hodgkin followed. And so did controversy: from the circus of his tenure at La Monnaie in Belgium to his work on the biggest flop in Broadway history. But through the Reagan-Bush era, the worst of the AIDS epidemic, through rehearsal squabbles and backstage intrigues, Morris emerged as one of the great visionaries of modern dance, a force of nature with a dedication to beauty and a love of the body, an artist as joyful as he is provocative. Out Loud is the bighearted and outspoken story of a man as formidable on the page as he is on the boards. With unusual candor and disarming wit, Morris's memoir captures the life of a performer who broke the mold, a brilliant misfit who found his home in the collective and liberating world of music and dance.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Who Will Help Jack Off the Horse? Bimisi Tayanita, Matt Williams, 2020-10-15 ...and of course the whimsical poetic meter known as iambic tetrameter is no more capable of exclusive ownership than the air we all breath.--Bimisi to Theodor Seuss GeislIt is entirely possible to wake up in the morning with no intention of learning anything at all, but learning something substantial, nonetheless. It was a typical Wednesday afternoon at their favorite dive bar.

Bimisi and Sumguyen were sparring, via a spirited match of online trivia, with patrons of a similar dive bar in another part of the world...a part of the world where it most likely was not still Wednesday afternoon. The final question...at least the last question they heard before scrambling for a pen and paper to get to work on their first parody was this:Madonna, Michael Jackson and ____ are the only 3 artists who have had a top 40 hit in 4 different decades.ANSWER: Weird Al Yankovic

snappy answers to stupid questions: *Totally MAD* The Editors Of Mad Magazine, 2012-10-30 For the past six decades (that's 60 years-we did the math so you don't have to) MAD Magazine has keenly observed the American landscape and promptly made fun of everything in sight. Unwavering in their commitment to high quality stupidity, MAD's legendary artists and writers, long known as The Usual Gang of Idiots, have brilliantly satirized politics, celebrities, sports, media, cultural trends, and more. Totally MAD (originally titled The New American Cookbook until cooler heads prevailed) is the ultimate collection of MAD's most idiotic material, including such classics as Spy vs. Spy, The MAD Fold-in, A MAD Look At..., The Lighter Side of, Horrifying Clichés and The Shadow Knows, plus modern MAD classics including The MAD Strip Club and The Fundalini Pages. Whether you grew up with MAD in the 50s, 60s, or 70s, reading it with a flashlight under the covers so your parents wouldn't catch you, or in the 80s, 90s and beyond, reading it while watching the MADtv sketch comedy show or the more recent animated series on the Cartoon Network, this book will bring back fond memories and also provide a great introduction to MAD for new readers. Then again, maybe not. SPECIAL BONUS! Includes The Soul of MAD, 12 classic cover prints, ten featuring Alfred E. Neuman, MAD's gap-toothed grinning idiot mascot. These beautiful reproductions are suitable for framing or wrapping fish.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Introverts in Love Sophia Dembling, 2015-01-06 From the author of The Introvert's Way, a friendly and accessible guide to dating and relationships for introverts. Love is tricky for everyone--and different personality types can face their own unique problems. Now the author of The Introvert's Way offers a guide to romance that takes you through the frequently outgoing world of dating, courting, and relationships, helping you navigate issues that are particular to introverts, from making conversation at parties to the challenges of dating an extrovert.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Shine! J.J. Grabenstein, Chris Grabenstein, 2021-09-14 Everyone deserves to shine in this sparkling book about a girl who's trying to find her place in the universe--and middle school--from the New York Times bestselling author of Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library! Shine on! might be the catchphrase of twelve-year-old Piper's hero--astronaut, astronomer, and television host Nellie Dumont Frisse--but Piper knows the truth: some people are born to shine, and she's just not one of them. That fact has never been clearer than now, when her dad's new job has landed them both at Chumley Prep, a posh private school where everyone seems to be the best at something and where Piper definitely doesn't fit in. Bursting with humor, heart, science, possibilities, and big questions, Shine! is a story about finding your place in the universe--a story about figuring out who you are and who you want to be. BONUS! Science experiment included!

snappy answers to stupid questions: *Kids' Quickest Comebacks* Matt Rissinger, Philip Yates, 2004 Contains a collection of quick comebacks for almost any situation imaginable.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Humbug Jack Davis, Will Elder, Al Jaffee, Harvey Kurtzman, Arnold Roth, 2009-04-21 You know MAD. Do you know Humbug? Harvey Kurtzman changed the face of American humor when he created the legendary MAD comic. As editor and chief writer from its inception in 1952, through its transformation into a slick magazine, and until he left MAD in 1956, he influenced an entire generation of cartoonists, comedians, and filmmakers. In 1962, he co-created the long-running Little Annie Fanny with his long-time artistic partner Will Elder forPlayboy, which he continued to produce until his virtual retirement in 1988. Between MAD and Annie Fanny, Kurtzman's biographical summaries will note that he created and edited three other magazines—Trump, Humbug, and Help!—but, whereas his MAD and Annie Fanny are readily available in reprint form, his major satirical work in the interim period is virtually unknown. Humbug, which had poor distribution, may be the least known, but to those who treasure the rare

original copies, it equals or even exceeds MAD in displaying Kurtzman's creative genius. Humbug was unique in that it was actually published by the artists who created it: Kurtzman and his cohorts from MAD, Will Elder, Jack Davis, and Al Jaffee, were joined by universally acclaimed cartoonist Arnold Roth. With no publisher above them to rein them in, this little band of creators produced some of the most trenchant and engaging satire of American culture ever to appear on American newsstands.

snappy answers to stupid questions: God in the Gallery (Cultural Exegesis) Daniel A. Siedell, 2008-10-01 Is contemporary art a friend or foe of Christianity? Art historian, critic, and curator Daniel Siedell, addresses this question and presents a framework for interpreting art from a Christian worldview in God in the Gallery: A Christian Embrace of Modern Art. As such, it is an excellent companion to Francis Schaeffer's classic Art and the Bible. Divided into three parts--Theology, History, and Practice--God in the Gallery demonstrates that art is in conversation with and not opposed to the Christian faith. In addition, this book is beautifully enhanced with images from such artists as Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Enrique Martínez Celaya, and others. Readers of this book will include professors, students, artists, and anyone interested in Christianity and culture.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Mad's Vastly Overrated Al Jaffee Al Jaffee, Albert B. Feldstein, 1983

snappy answers to stupid questions: Fat Ragen Chastain, 2012-06 This book is more than just the story of a fat woman who managed to win respect and National Championships in the thin-obsessed world of dance. It's more than just a trained researcher's examination of the evidence about weight and health. It's a book about living life in the body that you have now, and making decisions about what you want in the future, and how to get there. Whether you want to change your body, fight for size acceptance, just live your life, or understand and support your fat friends and family, this book provides the insights, aha moments, humor, and hard facts to help.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Back from Betrayal Suzy Farbman, 2004 Back from Betrayal is a beautifully written and brutally honest account of marital infidelity and the long journey back to reconciliation. Suzy Farbman was living the American dream: great kids, a marriage that had lasted nearly three decades, a successful career, and a comfortable lifestyle. But when she discovered her husband was having an affair, her dream turned to nightmare, her secure world crumbled. She was not alone. Experts tell us that in this country at least one of every three couples is touched by infidelity. And middle-aged couples today admit to twice the rate of infidelity as the preceding generation. While revelations about infidelity usually result in either divorce or an empty relationship, Suzy was determined to fight back. First for her own life. Then, if possible, for her marriage and family. Suzy Farbman's personal odyssey is one of the first published by a woman who confronted infidelity and went on to save her marriage. It was a long and difficult strugg

snappy answers to stupid questions: Disorder in the American Courts Marcelle Boren, 2016-04-27 The quotes contained in this book are things real people actually said, word for word, under oath in legal court proceedings and are forever immortalized in the public record. This fully illustrated, cartoon panel book brings these humorous quotes to life! It is true that lawyers and witnesses say the darndest things! Please enjoy a good laugh at their expense.

snappy answers to stupid questions: Insults & Comebacks Knock Knock Book Staff, 2008 The 'Lines For All Occasions' series provides a superb collection of these much needed phrases for all manner of breakup, rejection, excuse, lie, come-on, or insult situations - ranging from the diplomatic to the downright bridge burning.

snappy answers to stupid questions: A Pocket Guide to Flash Fiction Randall Brown, 2012-11-14 A textbook for writers and teachers of flash fiction.

snappy answers to stupid questions: The Mad Archives The Usual Gang of Idiots, 2012-11-13 This second volume collecting the early issues of MAD featuresclassic material from issues #7-12, including Shermlock Sholmes, DraggedNet, and Little Orphan Melvin!

snappy answers to stupid questions: Al Jaffee's Mad Book of Magic and Other Dirty

Tricks Jerry De Fuccio, 1970

snappy answers to stupid questions: Inside MAD The Editors Of Mad Magazine, 2013-10-29 Go Inside MAD! It has long been assumed that anyone who wasted their formative years reading MAD must have wound up as a complete failure in life. But as it turns out, some readers actually went on to be...successful! For the first time ever, MAD asked some of these successful readers to share what reading (and appearing in) MAD meant to them. What they have to say may surprise you! Featuring essays with nouns, verbs, and punctuation by: Roseanne Barr Ken Burns Dane Cook Paul Feig Whoopi Goldberg Harry Hamlin Tony Hawk Ice-T Penn Jillette George Lopez David Lynch Todd McFarlane Jeff Probst John Slattery John Stamos Pendleton Ward Matthew Weiner But wait-there's more! (Regrettably.) MAD asked some of the aforementioned complete failures in life (MAD's editors, writers and artists to share their all-time favorite MAD articles. What they have to say will definitely disappoint you! Featuring the moronic mumblings of: Sergio Aragones Tom Bunk Tim Carvell Paul Coker Jack Davis Dick DeBartolo Desmond Devlin Mort Drucker Mark Fredrickson Drew Friedman Frank Jacobs Al Jaffee Peter Kuper Tom Richmond And many more! Plus, inside: a never-before-reprinted Alfred E. Neuman pop art poster! And, an all new fold-out poster: a specially commissioned look at the legendary MAD offices by Sergio Aragones!

snappy answers to stupid questions: Elements of Wit Benjamin Errett, 2014-10-07 Got wit? We've all been in that situation where we need to say something clever, but innocuous; smart enough to show some intelligence, without showing off; something funny, but not a joke. What we need in that moment is wit—that sparkling combination of charm, humor, confidence, and most of all, the right words at the right time. Elements of Wit is an engaging book that brings together the greatest wits of our time, and previous ones from Oscar Wilde to Nora Ephron, Winston Churchill to Christopher Hitchens, Mae West to Louis CK, and many in between. With chapters covering the essential ingredients of wit, this primer sheds light on how anyone—introverts, extroverts, wallflowers, and bon vivants—can find the right zinger, quip, parry, or retort…or at least be a little bit more interesting.

snappy answers to stupid questions: I'm with Stupid Gene Weingarten, Gina Barreca, 2004-02-03 Is God male or female? Why do women, but not men, flush public toilets with their feet? Why are men, but not women, obsessed with parallel parking? Why do women, but not men, leave eleven-minute messages on answering machines? Why do men feel guilty about nothing, and women feel guilty about everything? Was Marilyn Monroe...fat? These philosophical guandaries, and more, are finally debated in I'm with Stupid, an uproariously funny dialogue between Gene Weingarten, the gleefully misogynistic Washington Post humor columnist, and Gina Barreca, the gleefully feminist University of Connecticut professor. The first significant book about men and women actually written by a man and a woman, I'm with Stupid is privy to the dark secrets of both sexes. It's not a lecture, but an extended argument, a combustion of viewpoints that winds up unearthing startling truths. In the words of Gene and Gina: Our Mars and Venus breach their orbits and collide in a screaming fireball from Hell. The subject matter spans art and expression, science and technology, politics and history, spirituality and religion, sex and sexuality, as well as the complex etiology, sociology, and etymology of dirty jokes. Men: Learn at last how to know for sure when you are having a fight. Women: Learn what he really means when he says I'm sorry. Take sides as Gene and Gina face off in a haggling challenge in which the winner manages to get the lowest price for a Mercedes S500. Or just take in the show. I'm with Stupid is the book that finally establishes, conclusively, that women are funnier than men. And vice versa.

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