

SPELLING IT OUT

LEONARD R.N. ASHLEY

Brooklyn, New York

Here is some amusing wordplay. Forget “A as in Apple” and “X as in Xylophone” when people, perhaps annoyingly, ask you to spell out a word or a name. Maybe you could get by with alpha, Bravo, and so on, but why not entertain (or exasperate) with one of the two following systems?

For the first of these you may have to adopt a Cockney accent because those Britishers appear to have invented this—thus, “arf a mo” for “just a moment”. More complicated is the “X is in...”: system. Some American jokes here, but “arsing around” is British. Some of these you will have to repeat and repeat until they dawn on you. Eventually you will be “wisin’ up”!

A for ism
 B for dinner
 C for your self
 D for dumb
 E for more
 F for vescent
 G for by the dozen
 H for beauty
 I for an eye
 J for oranges
 K for war
 L for leather
 M for size
 N for mation
 O for goodness’ sake
 P for ated
 Q for the bus
 R for mo’
 S for information
 T for two
 U for me
 V for La France!
 W for a higher bet
 X for breakfast
 Y for you do that?
 Z for blowing

A as in the barn
 B as in clover
 C as in food
 D as in doze
 E as in tension
 F as in er repent...
 G as in crackers
 H as in Topeka & Santa Fe
 I as in the cake
 J as in rainbows
 K as in paint
 L as in Wonderland
 M as in grace
 N as in tablets
 O as in buggy
 P as in quiet
 Q as in down the river
 R as in around
 S as in donkeys
 T as in me
 U as in cerely
 V as in vunderful shape
 W as in twin
 X as in information
 Y as in up
 Z as in power

The British would prefer “Zed for an insult” and “Zed as in Kane,” the movie. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.