

## PHILOLOGY

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### **Play on words as the basis of structuring jokes in English**

Play on words is a special language unit used to create some comic effect and to make the listener smile and laugh, the aim if play on words is to make a playful and even ironic mood. Play on words is realized in such a genre as a joke. In modern English this realization is possible due to the use of homonyms, homoforms and homophones. Play on words realization based on different sound coincidence is the most widely-spread means in English short funny stories. Polysemy is another frequent language phenomenon used in the function of play on words in structuring jokes. The usage of the above mentioned expressive language units in short funny stories in English (called “anecdotes” in the Russian language) make the latter brighter and more emotional, so the speaker does not have to resort to metaphors.

Key words: play on words, pun, homonyms, homoforms, homophones, polysemy.

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