

<b>Name (in Romaji):</b>	→
<b>Student Number:</b>	→
<b>Class Day + Period:</b>	→

## INTERNET MEMES

Merriam-Webster defines a “meme” as either (a) an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture, or as (b) an amusing or interesting image, video, or item widely shared online, especially via social media. This formal definition is relatively recent; the term was only officially added to the dictionary in May 2015, alongside other internet-age entries like “emoji” and “clickbait.” Despite being a staple of online communication for years, memes only gained mainstream recognition as a linguistic and cultural phenomenon in the second decade of the twenty-first century.

Memes often carry an element of mystery, puzzling even tech-savvy users with their origins and meanings. Their rapid spread and often cryptic humor invite curiosity: where do they come from, and what are they trying to say? In 2018, a group of researchers from institutions including University College London and King’s College London investigated this very topic, compiling a list of top internet memes and examining their social effects. Their study revealed that while many memes are lighthearted creations by creative or bored individuals, others are strategically designed to influence opinions — particularly in politics.

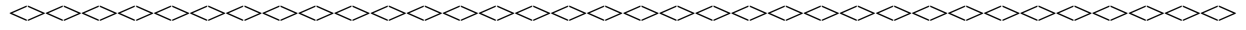
Given the overwhelming number of memes online, keeping up with the latest trends can be challenging. Memes often become outdated within days, replaced by new ones with their own obscure references. Social media platforms and forums like X (formerly Twitter), Reddit, 4chan, and Tumblr are hotspots for meme creation and sharing, making it difficult to trace their origins. Nevertheless, databases such as *Know Your Meme* help decode them.

Memes can certainly seem chaotic and fast-moving, but they also serve as a form of digital storytelling and cultural connection. They can unite people across communities, provided they have internet access. It particularly helps if people have an understanding of the underlying theme running across most (if not all) iterations of a particular meme.



## Reference

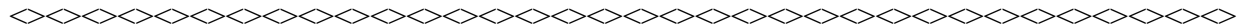
Gallagher (Stacker), K. (2022). 50 famous memes and what they mean. Triad City Beat, December 27. Retrieved May 19, 2025, from <https://triad-city-beat.com/50-famous-memes-and-what-they-mean/>



You will now see a slideshow describing a few of the many popular internet memes that are out there. More are made (and both liked and hated) all the time.

On the lines below:

1. Write the name of each meme discussed on the dotted line (but understand that different people sometimes call each meme by a different name).
2. On the solid lines, take notes about each meme discussed. These notes may be very important later.



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4a.....

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6. ....

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7a. ....

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7b. ....

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8. ....

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9. ....

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10. ....

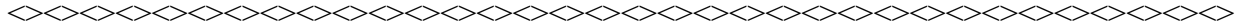
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\*\*\*\*\* HOMEWORK TASKS \*\*\*\*\*

Here are three tasks. The tasks should be printed out, ready for submission.

1. Research the history of **one meme** presented here. When did it start? Who made it? Where is/was it found most often? Use as many sentences/paragraphs as you need. Do not just copy from a website, and you may not use GenAI like ChatGPT.

2. Choose **another meme** discussed here. Use the picture in the meme to create **three new scenes**, based on the premise the meme represents (you can find meme generators on the internet, or you can do a search for the meme picture that does not have any words on it). You may not use memes that already exist (your teacher has seen the memes on the internet, and he has done research on memes, so he will know if copying occurs). The meme should make sense and (of course) be funny, or it should at least follow the spirit of the meme.

3. Make your own meme. Use a (safe) photo and create **five scenes** based on your new meme. Your teacher can show you some examples.

