**Going Higher - Funnies**

**My family was unpacking the car at the beach when a telephone-repair truck pulled up. A man stepped out and asked if we knew of a place to change. We told him the only spot was a portable toilet at the edge of the lot. He made a face, then thanked us and returned to his truck. A minute later I caught sight of the telephone-repair bucket rising into the air. The man was in the bucket, but I couldn't see what he was doing -- then the bucket descended, and from it emerged the man in his swimming trunks. He smiled, waved and trotted off for a refreshing swim. *(Alessandro Cafaro, in Reader's Digest)***

**Remember the fellow who found himself in the middle of a pasture with an angry bull charging him? The only escape in sight was a tree, but the nearest limb was ten feet off the ground. The fellow ran for it and made a tremendous leap. He missed it on the way up, but caught it on the way down. *(Anonymous)***

**While on vacation in San Francisco, my sister developed a toothache. The hotel desk clerk recommended a dentist. Susan, who dislikes heights, was horrified to discover that he was located on the 14th floor of a skyscraper, with two of the office walls made entirely of glass. Susan was sitting rigidly in the examination chair, clutching its sides, when the dentist came in. “Are you always this nervous?” he asked. It’s just that I’m not used to being up this high,” Susan replied, eyes closed. “Oh, I’m sorry,” he said. Then he lowered her chair six inches. *(Joan B. Hortin, in Reader’s Digest)*  
If God wanted us to fly, he would have given us tickets. *(Mel Brooks)***

**Hagar: “I fought and clawed my way to the top, and now that I've finally arrived, I have to ask myself this question: ‘What's so good about getting to the top?’” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

**Billy: “Grandma said parents should give their children love and wings. Will my wings be flapping ones like a bird’s, or the airplane kind?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As they arrive at the airport, the kids are singing: “Over the country and through the clouds to Grandmother's house we go!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When our five-year-old son asked if he could go to see a movie playing at our local theater, I told him I didn't think he would enjoy it because the jokes would be over his head. He thought about it for a moment, then said, “That's all right, Mom. We can sit in the balcony.” *(Lynne Dziedzic, in Reader's Digest)*  
Charlie Brown says to the store manager: “Yes, Sir, I'd like to buy a new kite. Oh, red, blue, yellow, I don't care. The color doesn't matter. Do you have one that isn't afraid of heights?” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*  
Lady: “I need a mouse trap for a very large mouse.” Man: “How large?” Lady: ‘About the size of a small dog!” Man: “Are you sure it wasn’t a rat?” Lady: “Well, it was just a blur, and then I was on top of the refrigerator.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**From a cartoon showing a NASA switchboard operator replying to a caller interested in Sen. John Glenn's trip on the space shuttle: “Yes, we're launching a member of Congress into outer space. No, we won't launch the other 534 members with him.” *(Mike Thompson, Copley News Service)***

**A new study has found that obese people are prone to altitude sickness. This is too bad because we know how fond fat people are of mountain climbing. (*Craig Kilborn)***

**Billy tells his friend while walking to school: “All summer I was in orbit. Now my worry is re-entry.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Woman: “Oh, baby! Why do you always want Mommy to pick you up?” Dog: “Because up here is where all the hugs are!” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**Wise man on mountaintop to exhausted pilgrim who has clawed his way up: “Tsk, tsk! You could have reached me at GURU@mountain.com.”  
*(Auth, in Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine)*  
The boss called an employee into his office. “Bob,” he said, “you have been with the company for a year. You started in the mail room, one week later you were promoted to a sales position, and one month after that you were promoted to district manager of the sales department. Just four short months later, you were promoted to vice president. Now it's time for me to retire, and I want to make you the new president and CEO of the corporation. What do you say to that?” “Thanks," said the employee. “Thanks?” the boss replied. “Is that all you can say?” “I guess not,” the employee said. “Thanks, Dad!” *(Ron Dentinger, in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Chronicle)***

**If there’s “always room at the top,” why is there so much shoving going on up there? *(Olin Miller, in Atlanta Journal)***

**As Dolly and Billy observe the highway sign with the arrow pointing up just above the Highway 10 symbol, Dolly says to Billy: “That means Route 10 is just for planes, rockets, or hot-air balloons.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As a young evangelist in my first full-time preaching job, I was unsettled one morning when I heard a church member boasting about how he had used a radar detector to avoid getting ticketed for speeding. Moments later, however, I was pleased to hear another parishioner tell him in a somber tone, “It's the man upstairs you need to be worried about.” I was about to chime in with a comment about honesty when the second man added, “That guy in the helicopter will get you every time!" *(Dan Schnell, in Reader's Digest)***

**Teacher: “Do you know how tall you are, Dolly?" Dolly: “A little above the kitchen table." *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*  
Years ago when I worked in a day care center, a little girl looked up at my 5’10” frame and said, “Wow. You’re really tall!” “Yes, I am,” I said. “And someday when you’re all grown up, you will be tall, too.” She looked up at me solemnly and said, “I’m not afraid.” *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. 62)***

**Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort, he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs, and crashed to the ground. After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts. Finally, the female bird turned to her mate. “Dear,” she chirped. “I think it's time to tell him he's adopted.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**We’ve got a two-letter word we use constantly that may have more meanings than any other. The word is UP. It is easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or toward the top of a list. But when we waken, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? And why are participants said to speak UP? Why are officers UP for election? And why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? The little word is really not needed, but we use it anyway. We brighten UP a room, light UP a cigar, polish UP the silver, lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, it has special meanings.  People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, think UP excuses and get tied UP in traffic. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.  It may be confusing, but a drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, and close it UP in the evening. We seem to be all mixed UP about UP. In order to be UP on the proper use of UP, look UP the word in the dictionary. *(Frank S. Endicott)***

**Dad: “Son, your problem is that you lie down on your back and let people walk all over you. People never walk all over me! And why do you suppose that is?” Mom: “Maybe they don’t want to walk uphill!” Dad: “I wasn’t talking to you!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

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