

The Skill of Humor

Speaker: Andrew Tarvin

Why I chose the topic

I have been enjoying watching some comedy shows such as standups lately and was impressed by the sense of humor they have. Since then, I have kept thinking that comedians must have a different way of viewing the world, so the title “The Skill of Humor” instantly caught my attention. We might think humor is a talent, but as the title suggests, humor might be a skill that everyone can learn to have.

Here’s the link to the video. I hope you enjoy it.

[The Skill of Humor | Andrew Tarvin | TEDxTAMU](#)

Vocabularies & Grammar

1. She made a several funny (). • waves

- puns
- tides
- waves

2. I think he is the () comedian on TV.

- shiftiest
- extensive
- wittiest

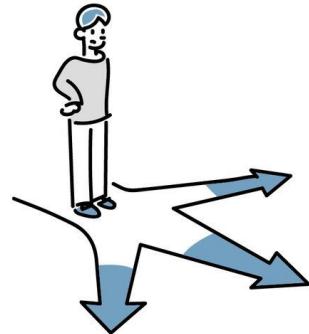
3. In today’s overworked, underappreciated, stress filled, () culture, humor is a necessity.

- sleep-deprived
- industrious
- persistent



4. He doesn't know how to () a joke

- knock
- poke
- crack



5. He wrote a political ().

- satire
- nutrients
- utility

6. Can February March? No, but April ().

(Marching band)

- January
- May
- August



Engaging Questions

1. Why is humor beneficial to us? Circle out the answers as many as possible.

Because it...

- is a stress reliever.
- helps you to build long-term relationships with others.
- makes you more successful in business.
- improves your eating habits.
- builds group cohesiveness.

2. Fill the blank.

Anyone can learn to be 1 as long as humor is a 2.

Everyone has their own 3, we can use or share that 3 as a way to 4 with other people.

A stereotypical 5 conversation can be boring, but we can turn that into a meaningful conversation where you can learn about the person by using a “yes, and...” mindset.

~What is staircase wit?~

Staircase wit is when you think of a perfect response after the conversation occurs.

“I should’ve said... instead of...at that moment”

“It could’ve been better if I said...back then...”

When it happens to you, that means..

■ You have a good comedic instinct.

3. What are the three main steps to improve humor?

1. Share your _____

2. Explore and _____

3. Practice, _____ , _____

Activities

1. What is the funniest thing that happened to you recently?

2. Who is your favorite comedian?

3. Here are some different types of humor. What is your favorite and why?

Witty humor

Using words in a clever and funny way. Quick thinking and smart wordplay.

Dark humor

Joking about something sensitive such as death or race.

Sarcasm

Purposely saying words with opposite meanings to insult something.

Observational humor

Joking about everyday things that nobody has ever noticed.

Self-deprecating humor

Joking by putting self down.

“Feel free to use me as a bad example. That way, I won’t be totally useless.”