

B2.12 Great Sense of Humour

You can learn:

- How to describe what makes you laugh.
- How to explain which jokes are offensive and why.

1



Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to the topic of comedy and laughing, with your partner.

- Do you consider yourself to have a good sense of humour? Do you like to listen to, or tell jokes?
- Do you enjoy watching 'stand-up' comedians?
- Do you have a favourite comedian, T.V. programme (a 'sitcom'), or film (maybe a 'romcom')?
- What are some common subjects that people laugh about in your culture? Why do they laugh?
- Can you laugh at yourself? Is it important to do so?
- What do you think of practical jokes?
- Do you like political humour/satire? Why?
- Do you know any famous British, or American comedy T.V. programmes, or movies? Which ones?
- Do you like the cartoon strips in newspapers?
- Did you laugh at clowns when you were a child?

1

LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL

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2

Read the jokes that the people below are telling. Do you find them funny?



Image Attribution to Amarand Agasi

*It was the first day of school. Harry's mother went into his bedroom and said, "Come on Harry, get up now. You have to go to school today."
"But I don't want to go to school," replied Harry, "I want to stay in bed. Why do I have to go to school?"
"Because," answered his mother, "you're a teacher!"* Greg

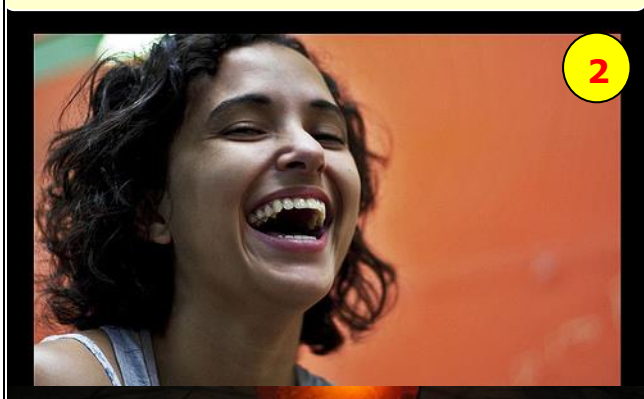


Image Attribution to Antimidia

A Scotsman, who was driving home one night, ran into a car driven by an Englishman. The Scotsman got out of the car to apologize and offered the Englishman a drink from a bottle of whisky. The Englishman was happy to have a drink. "Go on," said the Scot, "have another drink." The Englishman drank gratefully. "But don't you want one, too?" he asked the Scotsman. "Perhaps," replied the Scotsman, "after the police have gone." Amy



Image Attribution to Adam Comerford

First Joke: A man inserted an ad. (advertisement) in the classified section of the newspaper: "Wife wanted". Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine!"

Second Joke: In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak...and the neighbours listen!

Thomas

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3

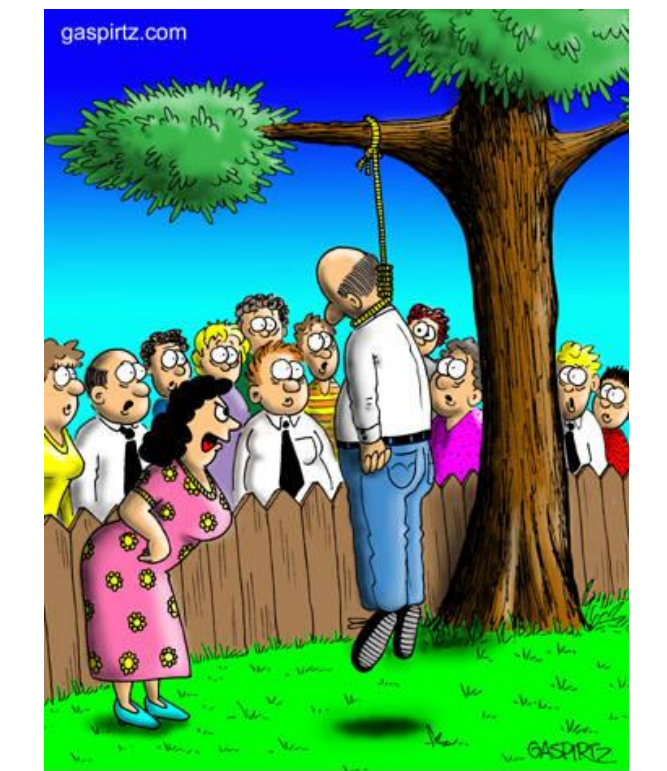


Are there jokes that you find offensive? Which kinds of jokes are offensive to you? Sexist jokes? Racist jokes? Jokes about religion? Jokes about people with physical or mental handicaps – 'sick' jokes? Jokes about death – black humour? Jokes about sex – 'dirty' jokes?

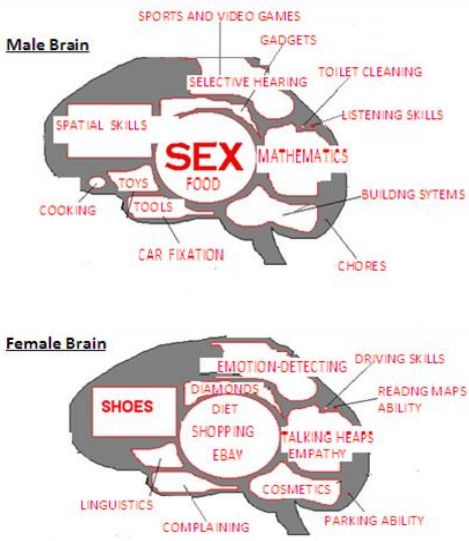
Look at the cartoons below. Do you 'get' the jokes in each? Could any be considered offensive?




The ghost you're trying to reach is currently unavailable. Please leave a message after the beep.



Get down from there! The neighbors are looking!



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4  **Now read these mistakes that people have made with their English. Sometimes the results are quite amusing. Can you see the mistake, and the unintentional humour, in each one?**

In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having fun. *In a Bangkok cleaner's:* Drop your trousers here for best results. *In a Paris hotel:* Leave your values at the front desk. *In a Copenhagen airline ticket office:* We take your bags and send them in all directions. *In a Norwegian cocktail lounge:* Ladies are requested not to have children at the bar. *In a Bangkok temple:* It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner dressed as a man. *In the office of a Roman doctor:* Specialist in women and other diseases. *In a Tokyo bar:* Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts. *At a Budapest zoo:* Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty. *In an Athens hotel:* Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9.00 and 11.00 a.m. daily.

4

5  **Now complete the cartoon strip by writing something funny in the speech bubbles below.**



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Notes:

*"Forgive, O Lord,
 my little jokes on
 Thee, and I'll
 forgive Thy great
 big joke on me ."
 Robert Frost*