

## Joke Analysis

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This 30-minute activity is most appropriate for Intermediate-High or Advanced learners. It provides learners with an approach to analyzing humor in the target language.

### Learning Outcome(s):

#### Learners will be able to:

- Compare humor in the target language to humor in the L1
- Identify instances of humor in the target language
- Write their own joke in the target language

**Mode(s):** Interpretive

**Material(s):** Projector, Handout (Example on the next page)

### Procedure:

1. **Preview discussion:** Before watching, briefly discuss the different types of humor (listed on page three). This discussion can also introduce new vocabulary in the target language. Allow learners a few minutes to discuss what they find funny in their own culture and L1.
2. **Get into Groups:** Give learners the handout on page 2 of this document and put them into groups of three or four. Remind them to pay attention to spoken language as well as non-verbal communication.
3. **Show Media:** Using a projector, play 1-2 minute comedy clips from target-language sources. Some examples might be skits, standup comedy clips, and funny moments from target-language media.
4. **Evaluate:** During the viewing, the instructor will pause the video whenever there is a laugh track, audience reaction, or if learners laugh. At each pause, learners will use their handout to write a brief description of the scene and select which type of humor they believe it demonstrates. After recording their thoughts, the group will briefly discuss what might have made the moment funny and explore any challenges they faced in understanding it.
5. **Discuss:** After all the clips have been shown, learners will return to their table groups to share their observations. They will discuss which moments they found funny and whether they agreed on the type of humor in each scene.
6. **Exit ticket:** Learners will work together in their groups to create a joke in the target language. They can present their joke in written form, as a comic strip, or as a short script. This creative task will be completed on the handout and will serve as an exit ticket to inform ongoing instruction related to humor.

# Comedy Analysis Handout

Name:

Date:

## Clip one:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Describe the clip | Slapstick, Wordplay, Irony, Satire, Parody, Absurdity, Dry, Situational. |
| How achieved?     |  |

## Clip two:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Describe the clip | Slapstick, Wordplay, Irony, Satire, Parody, Absurdity, Dry, Situational. |
| How achieved?     |  |

## Clip three:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Describe the clip | Slapstick, Wordplay, Irony, Satire, Parody, Absurdity, Dry, Situational. |
| How achieved?     |  |

## Make your own joke!

# Humor types

## 1. Slapstick

- **Definition:** Physical comedy involving exaggerated, clumsy actions or accidents.
- **Look for:** Touching, falling, speed, and movement that causes a reaction from the audience.
- **Example:** A clown slipping on a banana peel during a performance.

## 2. Wordplay

- **Definition:** Humor created by puns, double meanings, or clever manipulation of language.
- **Look for:** Language-specific homophones.
- **Example:** "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

## 3. Irony

- **Definition:** Saying the opposite of what is meant, often for humor or emphasis.
- **Look for:** Variations in sarcasm usage and tone recognition.
- **Example:** Calling a huge mess "just perfect."

## 4. Satire

- **Definition:** Humor that mocks or criticizes social or political issues.
- **Example:** A TV show ridiculing politicians.

## 5. Parody

- **Definition:** A humorous imitation of a style, genre, or work.
- **Example:** A music video mimicking a hit song to make fun of it.

## 6. Absurdity

- **Definition:** Humor that relies on illogical or ridiculous situations.
- **Look for:** Tolerance for surreal or nonsensical humor.
- **Example:** A story about a dog running for president.

## 7. Dry Humor

- **Definition:** Subtle, deadpan humor delivered with little emotion.
- **Look for:** Different expectations for tone and delivery.
- **Example:** "Oh great, another Monday. My favorite day."

## 8. Situational Humor

- **Definition:** Comedy that arises from unexpected or awkward situations.
- **Look for:** What scenarios are deemed funny or awkward.
- **Example:** A person accidentally wearing pajamas to a formal meeting.