

## GETTING READY

This term, we will be studying different forms of humour. So get ready and make sure you know the words to describe what makes you laugh and why it makes you laugh!

### I. Internet shorthand

- First do you know what the acronym **LOL** stands for? \_\_\_\_\_
- What about **ROFL**? \_\_\_\_\_
- And **LMHO**? \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Other ways to say “funny”

- Match each adjective with the right translation.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Amusing        | a) Drôle          |
| 2. Humorous       | b) Hilarant       |
| 3. Witty          | c) Plein d’esprit |
| 4. Comical        | d) Tordant        |
| 5. Hilarious      | e) Comique        |
| 6. Side-splitting | f) Amusant        |

- Fill in the blanks with the adjectives above. Choose the word that best matches each context.

- He is a \_\_\_\_\_ comedian. He makes a lot of puns and his jokes are smart.
- This movie was \_\_\_\_\_. I laughed so much that my stomach aches!
- You look \_\_\_\_\_ in that giraffe costume.
- They were bored so I showed them a video that they would find \_\_\_\_\_.
- My best friend is \_\_\_\_\_. She makes everybody laugh a lot.
- This book is quite \_\_\_\_\_. I’ve read it several times and it still makes me laugh.

### III. Types of humour and comedy

#### 1) Types of humour

Match each picture with one of the words from the list:

slapstick humour; dark humour; cringe humour; dry/witty/deadpan humour; self-deprecating humour; potty humour; observational humour; absurd humour

Useful vocabulary:

To break into a house: to enter a house by force

A robber: someone who steals things



A.



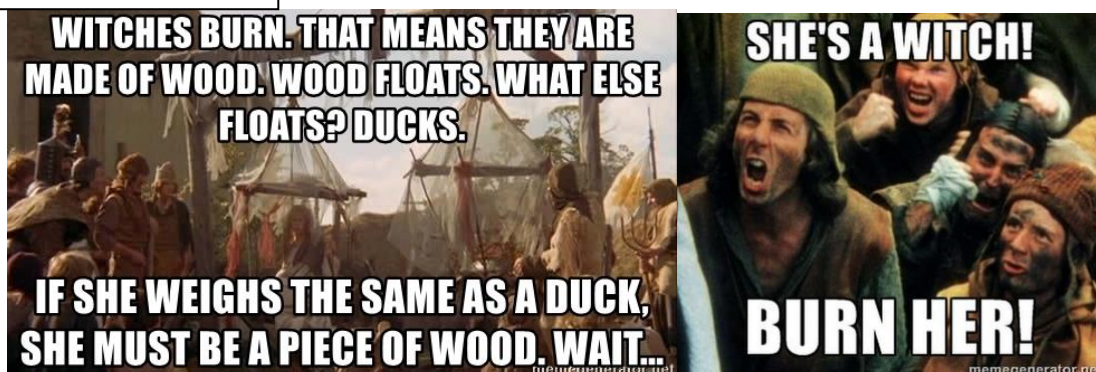
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D.



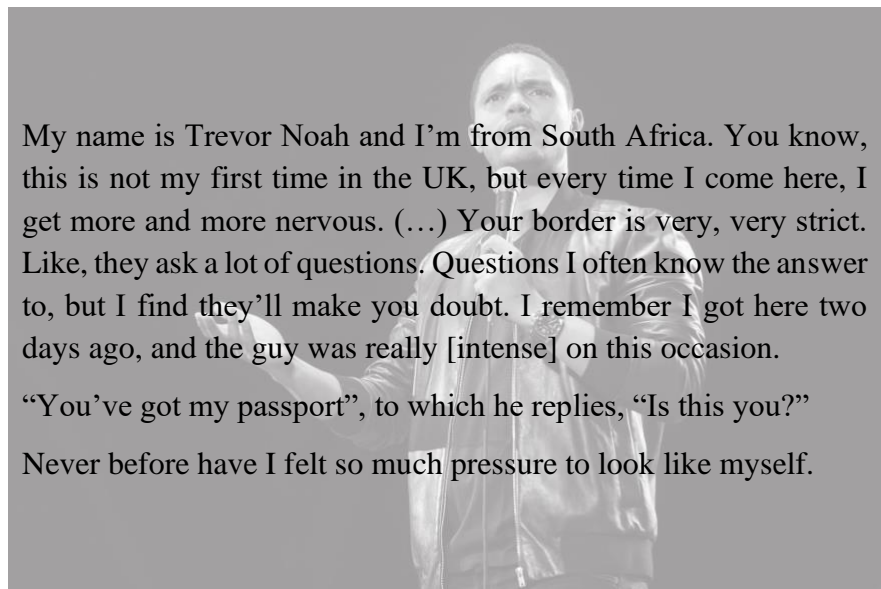
E.



F.



G.



My name is Trevor Noah and I'm from South Africa. You know, this is not my first time in the UK, but every time I come here, I get more and more nervous. (...) Your border is very, very strict. Like, they ask a lot of questions. Questions I often know the answer to, but I find they'll make you doubt. I remember I got here two days ago, and the guy was really [intense] on this occasion.

“You've got my passport”, to which he replies, “Is this you?”

Never before have I felt so much pressure to look like myself.

H.

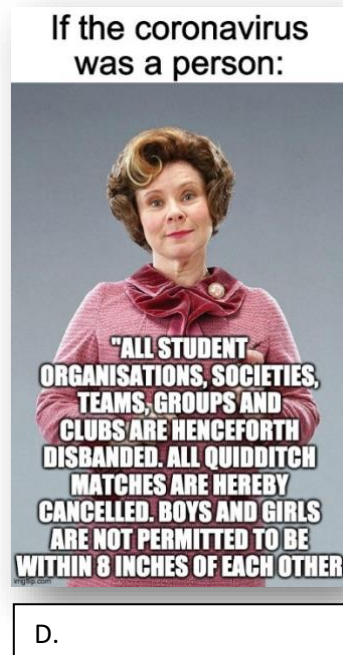
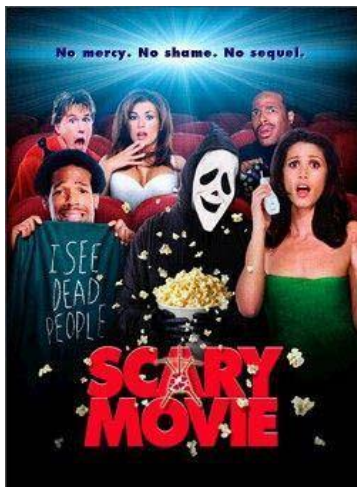
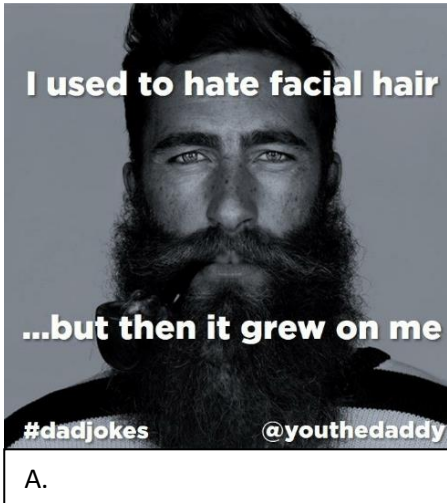
2) Tools for humour

Match each picture with one of the words from the list:

wordplay/puns/dad jokes; knock-knock jokes; stand-up comedy; parody/spoof; meme

Useful vocabulary:

*It grew on me: I started to like it more and more*



3) Ask a friend or someone in your family what type of humour makes him/her laugh and why. Using the grammar tip below, write down some questions:

What type of humour \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Do you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**GRAMMAR TIP -How to build a question**

AUXILIAIRE – SUJET – VERBE + complément(s)

Do                    you                    like                    dark humour?

Did                you                    see Jim yesterday?

Have                you                    seen                    Mary today?

**NB:** S'il ne s'agit pas d'une question fermée (= question en oui/non) mais d'une question ouverte, on rajoute un mot interrogatif devant l'auxiliaire :

**Why** do you like dark humour? **When** did you see Jim yesterday?

**Rappels :** 1. Avec le verbe BE, on inverse simplement le sujet et le verbe. Are you French?

2. Quand la question porte sur le sujet du verbe, pas d'inversion. Who sang?

Write down your friend's answers.

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**TOOLBOX**  
**Short answers**

**Do you ... ?**  
Yes, I do! / No, I don't.

→ **Compare and contrast your answers:**

Make two sentences with *both* to say what you have in common. Make a sentence with *whereas* to talk about something that you don't agree on. Then report to the class.

**Both of** us \_\_\_\_\_ .

We **both** \_\_\_\_\_ . I

\_\_\_\_\_, **whereas**

he/she \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### IV. Ways of laughing

How do you laugh? Choose three verbs that apply to you and illustrate with examples, using some of the words you have learnt on pages 4 to 7.



1. I \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Sometimes I \_\_\_\_\_. This happens when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I can also \_\_\_\_\_ if \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE – Let's have a laugh

### I. Did you laugh?

Watch the videos and answer the questions below. If necessary, before you start, revise what you learnt about the preterit last term in the brochure entitled "Escaping".

1)  **Monty Python, 'Spam'**

<https://vimeo.com/329001211>



a) What type of humour is used in this sketch?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Did you laugh? If so, how did you laugh? (Use the preterit to answer.)

When I watched this sketch, I \_\_\_\_\_.

*Did you know?* The use of the term "spam" for unwanted email comes from this clip!

2)  **Rowan Atkinson, 'Fatal Beatings'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZMoB6ms2mE&t=32s>

(If you need subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p63xBf3ydzM>)

a) What type of humour is used in this sketch?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Did you laugh? If so, how did you laugh? (Use the preterit to answer.)

When I watched this sketch, I \_\_\_\_\_.

3)  **Jack Vale, 'Farting in an elevator'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ynmJ9QEnivU>

a) What type of humour is used in this clip?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Did you laugh? If so, how did you laugh? (Use the preterit to answer.)

When I watched this clip, I \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Dad jokes

Conjugate the verbs using the preterit. Then, explain the puns.

Useful vocabulary:

*A vacuum cleaner: un aspirateur*

*To gather dust: prendre la poussière*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (you / hear) about the guy who \_\_\_\_\_ (invent) the knock-knock joke? He \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the 'no-bell' prize.
- 2) I was going to tell a time-traveling joke, but you guys \_\_\_\_\_ (not / like) it.
- 3) I \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to sell my vacuum cleaner—it was just gathering dust!
- 4) Why \_\_\_\_\_ (the math book / look) so sad? Because of all of its problems!

## III. Knock-knock jokes

These knock-knock jokes rely on homophony (different words that are pronounced the same). Read them out loud and write down the correct version of the punchlines.

### 1) Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Nana.

Nana who?

Nana your business!

=> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Lettuce.

Lettuce who?

Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

=> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 2) Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Anita.

Anita who?

Let me in! Anita borrow something.

=> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### c) Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Europe.

Europe who?

No I'm not!

=> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_