

HOW TO BE

FUNNY

~~LOOKING~~

+13 reasons not to use
the Comic Sans font



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The basics

Humour is a skill that anybody can learn. Here's the "secret": almost all humour fits into formulaic patterns. There are certain formulas where you can simply swap ideas in and out of them to make a joke. For example, understatement is where something extreme happens and you comment on it being far less extreme than it actually is. If the rain is extreme, you can say "Oh it's a little wet today". If Bill Gates is one of the world's richest people, then you might say that he "sort of knows how to make money". Following such formulas is the trick to spontaneously coming up with jokes tailored for your current situation. Being funny is as simple as learning these formulas.

However, simple does not mean easy. **It takes a lot of time and effort to become good at being funny.** You have to keep practicing it to expand your repertoire, to nail the delivery, and to spontaneously come up with jokes faster. If you don't have the time and energy to become great at being spontaneously funny, then that's ok. You can aim a little lower and learn how to handle specific situations in a funny way. A narrow repertoire may be good enough for your needs. This guide will start by showing you the steps for easy humour and then get into the harder stuff for those who are willing to really invest the time into becoming funnier.

Situational humour

Situational humour is about learning formulas for specific situations, especially those that commonly come up in your life. Simply memorize specific jokes and formulas for specific scenarios. Let's get started.

Conversations about weather

A lot of people will engage in smalltalk with you about the weather. It's a boring conversation topic that most people don't care about. But, you will run into it a lot. So, every once in a while, you can inject a little humour into this overused conversation topic.

One unique angle on the weather is climate change / global warming.

- The weather is unusually warm in a good way → "I love global warming because this weather is awesome."
- The weather is too cold for your tastes → "I can't wait for global warming to arrive."

Extreme situations / understatement

As mentioned before, understatement is an easy formula to deal with extreme situations. If the weather is extremely windy, you can say something like "Hmm it seems like there is a bit of wind today".

Or suppose that you're talking about a person with an extreme characteristic such as being very religious. You could describe that person as "slightly Christian" or "possibly into religion ;)". While you may not always get a laugh, there's nothing wrong with being witty.

"So what do you do?"

Here are some ideas for responding to the overused conversation starter "so what do you do?":

- If you don't look like a model → You are an Instagram model with millions of followers.

- If you are obese or physically handicapped → You are a personal trainer for Hollywood celebrities.
- You fight crime at night. Your parents are dead but you and your butler are BFFs. You are possibly in an age-inappropriate homosexual relationship with an orphan. (Obviously, this will only work on people who know about Batman's story.)
- You are an underwear model.

Once they get the point, you do not have to keep going with the joke. Flow into another conversation topic. If you don't want to talk about what you actually do because it's boring, then talk about something like Instagram. Suggest that you add each other on Instagram (if you're trying to flirt with them), show them your actual Instagram, or talk about how much you dislike social media whores. Instead of rehashing overused conversation starters, flow into a more interesting conversation topic if you can.

Same race

If somebody breaks racial stereotypes for their particular race, point it out and then tell them to get out of your race. Some people will point out that they can't change their race. You can tell those people to take their pathetic excuses elsewhere.

If you are white and there are no good racial stereotypes to comment on, pay attention to white privilege instead. When somebody you know fails to understand their white privilege, you can tell them that they have no respect for their privilege and to get out of your race.

This humour is slightly on the risky side so be careful not to use it in inappropriate situations. Also, some people simply won't find this type of humour to be funny so don't use it on those people.

Social justice

Some people use words like "intersectionality", "transphobia", and gender-neutral pronouns. Around such people, you can jokingly self-identify as a privileged white male (assuming that you aren't male or you aren't white). You can then take things a step further and make self-deprecating jokes about how you aren't a very good racist:

- "There are so many sexual orientations (or gender-neutral pronouns) nowadays and I haven't been keeping up. I guess I'm not very good at this bigotry thing."

- “Thanks for reminding me about ableism. My discrimination game has gotten quite rusty and I need to work on it.”

If you are a white male, then jokingly self-identify as a transgendered African American with a cognitive disability. Pretend that you know *exactly* what they are talking about (“as a person of colour, I know exactly how you feel”) when it is clear that you don’t.

They are wearing the same item as you (or have the same attire)

Compliment them.

“I like your jacket”

“You have great taste in hairstyles.”

“Your colour scheme game is on point.”

Somebody is crying

“Boy the air in this room suddenly got extremely dusty.”

“I think some invisible ninjas have been chopping onions around here.”

“Hold on a second, my eyes are sweating.”

Delayed reaction

If somebody playfully shoves you, punches you, or pokes you then you can delay your reaction. Pretend that nothing happened for one or two seconds. Then you “react” to the physical interaction by flinching, losing your balance, falling over, etc.

You can playfully combine the delayed physical reaction with another unusual reaction to what they did.

- Pretend to be in pain
- “Why you being such a bully? What’s wrong with you?!”
- “Hey watch it! I’m dainty ok?”
- “Whoa whoa whoa this aggression will not stand.”

Kids may love this type of humour far more than adults do.

Funny faces

When working with little kids, a simple way to play with them is to get their attention. Make a funny face, e.g. cross your eyes. Then end the interaction, start walking away, look back, and smile. They will probably laugh and want to play with you.

Know your audience

In the previous section, you've learned about some basic setups. The next step is to understand your audience.

In some cases, telling people to get out of your race would be inappropriate. There are also some people who will get offended by it and won't find it funny. So, you have to read the signs. Some people simply won't laugh at all. They simply aren't into that type of humour so don't try to make it work because it won't happen.

Some people may politely smile at your jokes even though they don't find it that funny. If you aren't sure about how to read somebody's body language, here are some things to look out for.

Signs that somebody genuinely finds something funny:

- **Their laugh is kind of embarrassing or weird.** These people usually try not to laugh because it's embarrassing; but, they can't help it. For an example of an embarrassing laugh, you can listen to [Marissa Mayer laughing on Youtube](#).
- **Unwanted movements.** If they are choking or coughing because they laughed, it is highly likely that their laugh was voluntary. If their laugh affects their ability to see, then they definitely found it funny.
- **Crow's feet and other involuntary movements.** In a genuine laugh, the eyes will squint a little and crow's feet will appear to the side of somebody's eyes. Normally people cannot do this voluntarily and fake it.
- **They perk up and they escalate their body language.** Their shoulders become more squared up with you, they lean forward, they smile more when you're not telling a joke, or they make more eye contact with you. When they've been entertained, their body language will indicate heightened interest. However, sometimes their body language does not necessarily indicate that they find you funny. They may simply like you in a non-platonic way and they're just playing along with your humour. If their body language is escalating and showing more

interest, you are doing something right but it may not necessarily be your humour. Regardless, you are doing something right so you're on the right track.

Signs that somebody doesn't find something funny:

- **Their body language shows awkwardness.** They look away after faking a smile, or they make less eye contact with you.
- **No reaction.** However, if there is only a small reaction instead of no reaction then their body language is ambiguous. Some people don't react much to things that they find funny. If you spend enough time with that person, you will eventually figure it out.

Unless it's very obvious that something isn't funny, don't obsess too much about whether or not your joke failed. If they are being polite to you by smiling, it does mean that they want to interact with you socially. They still want to talk to you and you still have their attention.

People have different tastes in comedy

People simply have different preferences when it comes to humour. With socially inappropriate humour such as racist jokes, reactions will vary wildly. Some people absolutely love them while others will be offended. Telling people to get out of your race is one of the "less" risky forms of racist jokes (alongside jokes that come at the expense of white people). It's one way to probe somebody to determine their stance on racist jokes. If they do not love that type of joke, you should stay away from socially inappropriate humour as further jokes will likely offend rather than entertain.

If you have a lot of time on your hands, you can become skilled at many different types of humour so that you can always tailor your humour to that person's tastes and preferences.

Realistically, you probably won't have the time to be incredibly good at a wide range of different comedic styles. Even professional comedians don't bother with range. They show up at an awards show and cause controversy by insulting guests (e.g. Sarah Silverman [making jokes at Paris Hilton's expense](#)) or making politically incorrect jokes (e.g. [Seth Macfarlane at the Oscars](#)). This is because some professional comedians specialize in unsafe humour and don't bother with being skilled at safe humour. I would not recommend sticking to unsafe humour. What you can do instead is to fall back onto

safe forms of non-controversial humour with broad appeal. Many of the formulas and patterns that you can use to be funny do not involve being mean or risqué. Or, simply have a normal conversation without trying to be funny.

Learn how to fail

First of all, don't be afraid of telling jokes that don't work. It happens to everybody. You usually don't remember instances of other people failing at humour because it doesn't stand out. If somebody makes a reference that you don't get, it is highly unlikely that the failed joke will stand out in your mind. Everyone constantly makes small mistakes in social interactions and those small mistakes simply don't matter. Go out there and tell some bad jokes. It'll be ok.

Of course, there are failures that people will remember. As mentioned before, be careful with politically incorrect jokes. If you want, you can skip over politically incorrect humour because you don't need it.

If a joke bombs, here are some options:

1. Don't acknowledge that the joke failed. Simply keep going with the conversation and flow into the next conversation topic. This is what you should do in the majority of situations. Do *not* look hurt or disappointed that your joke sucked. Doing so will just make things unnecessarily awkward.
2. Acknowledge that the joke failed by giving an absurd remark about how it didn't fail. Say it with confidence. "I can see you all dying of laughter. Don't worry, I'll invite you all to my comedy special." or "Well as you can see, my Holocaust jokes are the best and not awkward at all." And then move on. (Life pro tip: don't try to make Holocaust jokes work. It's too soon.)

Build your confidence

If you need to build up your confidence, start with the safest types of humour such as understatement. "It's possible that Bob from accounting is a slightly boring person." You can't really fail with that type of humour. Once you get comfortable with that, start expanding your horizons and branch out into riskier humour.

Delivery

Watch out for your delivery as it can set you up for failure. If you use a “I am about to deliver the punchline” tone of voice, then you are making the audience expect a punchline. This is risky if your punchline does not work. If you want to be safer, use a normal tone of voice (or a deadpan delivery) when telling your jokes. It can be funny when you say the most ridiculous and unexpected things in a casual manner. A casual delivery is almost always compatible with the jokes that you tell, so you can mindlessly default to it for almost every joke. If your audience isn’t sure if you’re joking or not (or you’ve been jokingly insulting people), you can smile at your own joke a few seconds after telling it. Then go back to being deadpan/normal.

Other ways of delivering jokes can also work so choose a style that you feel comfortable with.

Comedic timing

The simplest way to learn this is to experiment with saying a punchline sooner and saying it later. Eventually you will develop an intuitive feel for the ideal timing.

Don’t laugh

Being the first person to laugh is a good way to ensure that you are the only person to laugh at your joke, so don’t do it. Don’t laugh until you’ve finished telling your joke and a few seconds have passed. Then it’s ok to laugh- reacting to your own joke can inform others that you were joking if they somehow aren’t sure if you were joking or not.

If you have a problem with laughing at your own jokes, go on Youtube and find funny videos such as “Try Not to Laugh” challenges, standup comedy, Silent Library, etc. As you watch these videos, actively tell your brain that comedy has predictable patterns (e.g. setup → setup → punchline) and that comedy is rarely unexpected. You can retrain your brain so that your kneejerk reaction to “unexpected” stimuli isn’t laughter. Re-watch a video until you start seeing the formulaic patterns and setups. Once you stop laughing at that video, move onto a funnier video.

Be careful about sarcasm

The problem with sarcasm is that the other party often doesn't catch on, especially if what you're saying is plausible. If the other party doesn't realize that you're being sarcastic, then they won't find it funny. To avoid this, you can have a deadpan delivery but slowly make what you're saying less and less plausible (e.g. more absurd, more outlandish, etc.).

Your homework

Have normal conversations with people. It is highly likely that somebody will ask you what you do or you end up talking about the weather. Prepare some material beforehand so that you have an outline about what you'll say about those common conversation topics.

Intermediate comedic patterns and formulas

Once you've had some practice under your belt and feel comfortable telling a few jokes, it's time to broaden your arsenal.

Remember to stick to humour styles that make sense for you and reflect *your* personality. Don't be a weirdo who tries to be somebody that they're not. Figure out what you feel comfortable with. When humour fits with your personality, it will seem more natural and it will be more unexpected as others will be less likely to see your jokes coming.

Overstatement

If somebody is promoting themselves, then you can latch onto that and jokingly overstate their abilities or achievements. Think of a public figure who is famous for excelling in whatever area the person you're talking to is promoting. So if they are talking about their entrepreneurial activities, then you can say something like: "So basically you're going to make Elon Musk your bitch when it comes to startups."

If you can't think of a public figure, then you can just say something like: "So basically you're the Michael Jordan of wearing socks with sandals. ;)" Overstatement can also be used when a modest person is too shy to promote themselves, although modest people generally aren't into self-promotion so don't go on and on about boosting them.

Overstatement is often more witty than outright funny, but that's ok.

Randomly rag on (tease) your friends

Suppose that your friend has done something that deserves only extremely mild criticism. It can be anything small such as:

- Disagreements over a popular TV show or movie.
- Wearing socks with sandals, mismatched socks, or other minor fashion faux pas.

You can overstate your criticism of them:

- "You're wearing socks with sandals? Somebody call the UN because a crime against humanity is in progress."
- "Whoa, we can't be friends anymore."

- “You’re a monster. Get away from me.”
- “Who *are* you? I don’t even know you anymore.”
- “I wish I had my rape whistle because you just penetrated me.”

Inappropriately encourage socially questionable behaviour

Suppose that somebody tells you something racist (or otherwise says something that is politically incorrect). You can tell them that somebody might get really offended at their racist joke. Acknowledge and pay lip service to social norms. Then wait a beat, stick out your hand, and say “high five”. Most people will actually high five you although not everybody will be 100% comfortable doing so.

Misdirection

More broadly, misdirection is when you steer the audience one way and then end with a punchline that’s completely different. Funny stories often setup the audience to focus on one thing so that the ending will come as an unexpected surprise.

For example, suppose that you are telling a high school student about the value of studying hard in school and getting good grades. You might tell them that math skills might seem relatively unimportant when they’re a teenager but later become incredibly useful in the workplace (e.g. Excel spreadsheets, taxes, finances). Provide other arguments in favour of studying hard in school. Then derail everything that you’ve just said: “Then again, all of the social sciences are pretty much useless.”

Ironic statements

“There are only three kinds of people in the world: those who can count and those who can't.”

In these types of jokes, you say something that reveals your feigned ignorance, stupidity, or racism. Be sure to make plenty of spelling mistakes.

As an example, you can pretend to be smart by quoting ancient Greek philosophers while simultaneously butchering their names by mispronouncing them (e.g. Playdough / Plato, Harry Stottle / Aristotle, etc.). If anybody tries to correct you, you can immediately put them down for being uneducated. Or, pretend that their pronunciation is the same as yours (e.g. “That’s what I said - Playdough”).

Double meaning

Some statements can have an unintentional double meaning if the words are interpreted in a different context. In “that’s what she said” jokes, any statement that can be misconstrued as having sexual innuendo is followed up by interjecting with “that’s what she said”. Many people do not find these jokes funny because they are juvenile and played out. If you find yourself tempted to say those four words, please pull out and/or abort your efforts.

If you like pointing out unintentional sexual innuendo, you could try something like this instead: “So you’re gonna make sure it’s long enough, that doesn’t sound like sexual innuendo at all.” It’s the same thing but less juvenile.

Callbacks

Callbacks are when you make a reference to a joke or punchline you made earlier. If you point out unintentional sexual innuendo and the other person makes another comment that can be misconstrued, you can make some type of reference to your earlier comment. “So you want him to give it to you... now I am 100% convinced that you aren’t trying to inject sexual innuendo into this conversation.” If it happens again: “We’re just friends having a clean, family-friendly conversation.” etc. etc.

Meta Humour

“What do you call cheese that’s not yours?”

“What?”

“Nacho cheese.”

“That’s... not that funny.”

“Hey, what can I say? Cheesy humour is cheesy.”

You can make references to your own humour and give it silly or ridiculous names.

For politically incorrect jokes, you can state the category of discrimination that it falls into: racial discrimination humour, gender discrimination humour, ableism humour, genocide humour, etc. Suppose that you tell somebody to get out of your race.

Depending on their reaction, you can follow it up by saying: “I got you to laugh at my hate speech humour. High five.” or “I guess you’re not into hate speech humour.” If

you want to be ironic, then describe the humour as racial equality humour, gender studies humour, etc.

Suppose you make a joke that's related to a topic that normally isn't funny like chemistry, e.g. "The four states of matter: solid, liquid, gas, and black lives." You can follow that up by saying: "Heh, I knew my chemistry humour would get a reaction." Simply point out the unusual topic by sticking it in front of the word humour. Then make some comment about how that type of humour is or isn't funny.

Puns

Although a few people in the world enjoy them, pun jokes are usually *punishingly* cringey. They're very difficult to do spontaneously unless you spend a lot of time beforehand memorizing lots of different puns. Learning them probably isn't a good use of your time.

Perspective

Looking at things from a logical perspective can reveal things that are illogical. For example, the phrase "chubby chasers" refers to people who have a fetish for overweight/obese people. The phrase doesn't make that much sense because obese people don't run that fast.

An unusual perspective

While global warming is considered a bad thing, it can be funny if you find a context where you can jokingly argue that it is a good thing (e.g. more pleasant weather).

Self-deprecating humour

1. Draw attention to a negative feature about yourself, e.g. a mole with a giant hair growing out of it.
2. Pretend like that negative feature is something incredible. "Don't look at the mole on my belly. There's a hair growing out of it and your ovaries might explode just looking at it. I don't know if you'd be able to handle it."
3. Whatever nonsense you say, say it with confidence.

To generalize this, you can think of all of the idea combinations beforehand. You can easily figure out traits about yourself that can be misconstrued as negative: physical

features, fashion style, your race/gender/religion/sexual orientation, appearance (e.g. glasses), personality flaws, the way you talk, etc. etc.

Then think of some absurd boasts: may cause women (and men) to become pregnant, ovaries exploding, will bring about peace in the Middle East, etc. etc. Then it's simply a matter of pairing your flaws with absurd boasts.

Taking things to an illogical extreme

Overstatements and pretending like the mole on your body is god's gift to the opposite sex are really just specific forms of taking something to a silly and ridiculous extreme.

Silly mannerisms

There are plenty of videos of Conan O'Brien on Youtube where he demonstrates all of his weird faces and antics that he uses for comedic effect. The general pattern is that he runs with what somebody is saying, acts it out, and uses wacky expressions to take it to an absurd or eccentric extreme.

Or, if somebody has an unusual behaviour, he will mimic that behaviour but put a deranged twist on it. If what they say might be slightly creepy, he will repeat it but with a creeper stare.

Goofy ratings

"Two clubbed thumbs up"

"Nine out of ten pigeons would highly recommend this."

"A Kodak moment out of 3.47 stars"

If you are supposed to praise something but can't provide genuine praise, you can use humour to hide your true feelings. Simply make up a quirky rating to apply to whatever it is that you're supposed to be praising. Conan O'Brien frequently does this when he "reviews" video games that he is being paid to promote ([example](#)).

Non-compliments

"You are the most beautiful woman in this room." (There is only one woman in the room.)

“Of all the men in this room with blonde hair and glasses, you are the nicest and the smartest.” (There are multiple men in the room but only one with those specific features.)

One way non-compliments can be useful is if you’re dealing with the opposite sex and you don’t want to risk being too forward with your compliments. As a follow-up, you can boast about how incredible your compliments are. “You should cherish this moment. Some people will go an entire lifetime and never receive praise like that.”

Unusual compliments

“I love your shirt. Heck I’d be willing to vote Trump to get a shirt like that.” ← The idea here is to think of something messed up like voting Trump/Hilary, wearing socks with sandals, selling your organs, Armenian genocide denial, etc. Then state that it is the price that you’d be willing to pay to get that praiseworthy item or attribute.

“I love your shirt. The little kid in China or Vietnam working in a sweatshop did a great job making it.” ← The idea is to casually bring up tragedy and suffering that’s related to the compliment.

Talk about things in unusual ways

If you are discussing the world’s most popular cult, you might talk about how ‘your homeboy Jesus loved everybody but that Judas was such a player hater’.

If you are discussing a serious topic such as investing retirement money in index funds, you could jokingly talk like you were raised redneck in a trailer park. “Brotha, ya gotta diversify yo equities... jus’ like how mah Uncle Cleevus wud sleep wid as many of his cousins as he could. Den ya gotta keep dem management fees low, jus’ like savin money on aborshun by going to dah dollah store and buyin’ a wire hangah. You know what I’m sayin’ brotha?”

Instead of quoting famous people, you can always quote your homies Biggie Smalls, Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, etc.

Combining humour with social skills

Dealing with insults/bullying

If somebody is being a dick to you, simply help them roast you by taking their criticism to extremes. If somebody is calling you an incel and saying that you don't have a girlfriend, you might say something like: "Well, I've ordered a bunch of sex dolls from the Internet. So technically I have several girlfriends." If somebody is making fun of your weight, you might say something like: "Well obviously I loves me some Burger King. Whopper Wednesday baby."

Dealing with narcissists

If you have [a narcissistic boss](#) and don't want to get fired, it can be a good idea to validate your boss with the praise that they are so desperately addicted to. You can use overstatement to praise them. Simply tell them that they are the Elon Musk of whatever it is that they brag about. If you use overstatement to praise them, then there's a layer of plausible deniability. Because you were joking around, it's ambiguous as to whether or not you actually meant to praise the narcissist.

You have been excluded from a conversation

You are in a conversation where everybody else is talking about people who you don't know → "Yeah I know that guy John, we go way back. I know every single one of these people that you're talking about." A few moments later, you can mention that you have no idea who any of these people are.

The conversation involves something that you know nothing about → "Yeah I know exactly what you mean. I totally understand."

Most people don't have the social skills and quick thinking to steer the conversation back in a direction that includes you. So you should start figuring out how to bail from the conversation if you can't follow along.

How to think on your feet

Earlier on in the guide, you learned about how to deal with highly specific situations such somebody asking you about your job. Instead of memorizing the exact words that you say, try improvising the exact words on the spot. If you go with the Instagram

model shtick, you can come up with fake complaints about how difficult it is to be a professional model (e.g. having to reject celebrities who want to date you, your eating disorder, etc.). This can make your material fresher if the people you are talking to may have heard your material before. Once you are able to start improvising the words and ideas, work on learning how to handle more situations. Once you get the hang of that, you can proceed to the next step and freestyle your humour in less specific situations.

Suppose that you're into jokes where you describe things extremely literally. Those jokes would look something like this:

- The Pokemon franchise: Pikachu is a giant obese rat who looks like the victim of the standard American diet. The whole franchise is basically slavery because it's about capturing animals so that their masters can make them fight each other.
- Game of Thrones: The title needs work because the whole show is about everybody fighting for a single throne, not multiple thrones.
- The world's most popular book (the Bible): "They killed off a popular character that everybody liked, brought him back, and everybody is still making a big deal about his death. I don't get it."

Once you've found a few of those jokes, try to figure out how the structure can be generalized more broadly. Basically, you should ignore context, intended meaning, and metaphors. Look at that thing very literally and create an alternative meaning based on a very literal interpretation. This is a looser structure that takes more brainpower and creativity. You have to practice so that you can quickly bring together the parts on the spot.

Your homework

One exercise to hone your humour skills is to prepare material for situations that you are likely to find yourself in.

- Common conversation topics such as the weather, what your job is, what you're studying in school, etc.
- Observations about places that you will be.
- Observations about topics that you will talk about.
- Observations about people that you will talk about.

Suppose that you will likely go to the mall in the near future. You can prepare overstatement/understatement quips about unusual features of the mall. If the mall will be packed because of the holiday shopping seasons, think of some lines about how empty the mall is (“it’s such a ghost town this time of the year”). If there is unique art in the mall, you can think about how you can interpret that piece of art extremely literally.

Do not try to use all of the material that you have thought of beforehand. Trying to squeeze in all of your jokes will make your delivery unnatural and it probably won’t be funny. Avoid the counterproductive pressure of trying to do too much.

Before starting this exercise, review the chapters on *Situational humour* and *Intermediate comedic patterns and formulas*. Make a list of the patterns that fit your personality and are types of humour that you’re into. Feel free to add your own patterns to that list. Try to come up with material that fit most of the patterns on your list. When you get more practice under your belt, revisit your list and try to figure out ways to work the other patterns into your conversations. Realistically, some patterns will come up quite infrequently so don’t worry if you never get any practice with them. Also remember that it’s ok if you can’t think of ways to make a pattern work- take a break and try again later.

More patterns and formulas

To plagiarize ideas, go on Youtube and watch late night comedy show hosts like Jay Leno, David Letterman, etc. especially if that host’s style of comedy is similar to what you are aiming for. Watch how these hosts interview guests and improvise jokes as they have a conversation. Also watch [Conan O’Brien’s “The Remotes” series](#) as it has many great examples of being funny in normal conversations. Figure out the structure of the jokes and how those structures can be generalized broader so that they can work into other situations.

Don’t bother with standup comedy as it’s a different set of skills. Many standup comedians aren’t funny when they have normal everyday conversations.

Recap

To learn how to be witty and spontaneously funny in conversations, spend time learning comedic patterns and structures that fit with your personality. Spend a little time at

home coming up with material for common situations. Then when you are out in the world socializing, work on fitting humour into your everyday conversations.

Remember that being funny takes practice and time to master. If it was easy, there would be a lot more funny people in the world. Most people simply don't put in the time and effort required to get there. Standing out from the crowd takes work. But if you're willing and motivated, becoming a funnier and more interesting person is definitely within your reach.