

### IN THIS UNIT

- ► Analyze what makes you laugh
- ➤ Consider the role of humor in your life
- ▶ Tell a joke
- ► Give a presentation about humor in your country

### **SKILLS**

### LISTENING

Recognize connectors in speech

### SPEAKING

Introduce contrasting information

### GRAMMAR

Comparative forms

CRITICAL THINKING
Avoid stereotypes

## **CONNECT TO THE TOPIC**

- **1.** Do you think that clowns like the ones in the photo are funny?
- 2. In what situations do people try to make other people laugh?

## PREPARE TO WATCH

A		DCABULARY Listen to the work ecessary. 15.11	ds a	and match them with the definitions. Use a dictionary	
	1.	comedian (n)	a.	reasonable and understandable	
	2.	deliberately (adv)	b.	a person whose job is to make people laugh	
	3.	essentially (adv)	C.	to reduce pain or bad feelings	
	4.	exaggerated (adj)	d.	basically	
	5.	humorous (adj)	e.	a person hurt by another person or event	
	6.	logical (adj)	f.	made bigger and emphasized to make people notice	
	7.	problematic (adj)	g.	intentionally; on purpose	
	8.	<b>reality</b> (n)	h.	funny; making you laugh	
	9.	relieve (v)	i.	the way life really is and not just the way you imagine it	
,	10.	<b>victim</b> (n)	j.	causing difficulties	
В	VC	CABULARY Complete the ser	iter	nces with the words from activity A.	
	1. If someone can tell a good joke or a story that makes people laugh, they often find it easier to make friends.				
	2.	. Many jokes are because they are hurtful to a person or a group of people. We really need to stop telling these kinds of jokes.			
	3.	A lot of my friends think they can tell funny stories, but the is that only a few of them are good at it and make me laugh.			
	4.	. I don't like stories that don't make sense. If a story is not, I don't find it interesting.			
	5.			ey're jokes where the wrong meaning of a word is used.  uy who lost the <i>left side</i> of his body? He's <i>all right</i> now."	
	6.	It's never a good idea for an entertainer to explain why a joke is funny. A good never does that, but bad ones sometimes have to.			
	7.			ings that happen to them, and the details are er than life, but that's OK. It makes the story funnier.	
	8.	If you are feeling stressed, watch a f		y program on TV or online. It's a great way to ke yourself feel better.	

- 9. No one likes being the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of a mean joke.
- 10. Fathers often tell jokes that are not funny. They do it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and we even have an expression for these short, not-very-funny jokes: *dad jokes*.
- **C PERSONALIZE** Tell a partner if you agree or disagree with the statements in activity B. Explain your answers.

### REFLECT Analyze what makes you laugh.

You are going to watch a video about different kinds of humor. Read the descriptions of four types of comedy shows. Then complete the tasks and share your ideas with a partner.

- 1. Think of an example for each type of show.
- 2. Rank the shows from your most favorite (1) to your least favorite (4).



\_\_\_\_ A **sitcom** or **situation comedy** involves a group of characters who deal with funny situations every week. It's not very realistic, but the relationships between the characters are interesting.



\_\_\_\_\_ A **sketch comedy** presents a series of short, humorous scenes, called "sketches." Unlike a sitcom, it does not rely on the same group of characters from week to week.



\_\_\_\_ A **news comedy** uses stories reported in the mainstream news and adds jokes to summarize the true events. It's often made to look like a real news report.



\_\_\_\_ A **prank reality show** plays tricks on unknowing participants by putting them in strange or absurd situations.

WATCH & SPEAK SO, WHAT MAKES	THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF	
		В
	New York, New York, USA	

\		AIN IDEAS Watch the video. Match scriptions. 5.1	the typ	es of humor to the	Э
	1.	Slapstick humor involves	a.	events that are no	t logical.
	2.	Self-deprecating humor involves	b.	playing tricks on a	victim.
	3.	Surreal humor involves	C.	telling jokes about	yourself
	4.	Practical jokes involve	d.	humor from words	5.
	5.	Wordplay involves	e.	exaggerated action	ns.
3		ETAILS Watch the video again. Compee words. 5.1	lete the	e sentences with tv	vo or
	Sla	pstick			
	1.	An example of slapstick is when someboo	dy gets	a cream pie	
	2.	Japanese <i>kyōgen</i> involves short performa	ances w	rith	
	Se	lf-deprecating humor			
	3.	The comedian talks about the difference know he	oetwee	n how he wants to	be and
	4.	This humor isCanada than many other countries.	in t	he United States ar	nd
	Su	rreal humor			
	5.	This type of humor is more popular in the rest of the world.			_ than in
	6.	It's a good source of memes because it's single image.			in a
	Pra	actical jokes			
	7.	They are problematic when they go too far	and up	set	
	8.	In a practical joke in 1835, a newspaper of			
	Wo	ordplay			
	9.	In a pun, the	of a	word is used.	
	10.	All the jokes in the study about favorite jo	kes we	re	

**C PHRASES TO KNOW** Complete the excerpt from the video with the phrases. Then discuss the differences in meaning with a partner.

la	augh about	laughing at	laughing with
	When the victim	n feels that people are 1	them and no
2_		them, and when the vic	ctim can also
3_		the joke afterward, then	n it's a successful practical joke.

- In a small group, read the three jokes aloud. Help each other to understand the jokes. Then discuss what style of humor each one is and whether you find it funny.
  - 1. A: Why was six afraid of seven?
    - B: Because seven ate nine.
  - 2. A: Can I have a coffee without milk?
    - B: Sorry, we don't have any milk, but you can have it without cream.
  - 3. A: Have you ever felt like your entire life is just a big school exam?
    - B: Yes, and I'm quite certain that I forgot to study for it.

## **GRAMMAR** Comparative forms

We use different forms to talk about similarities and differences.

### **Adjectives**

To show that two things are different, add -er(+than) to one-syllable and some two-syllable adjectives. With longer adjectives, use more/less + adjective (+than).

Surreal humor is much **stranger than** other types of humor. It's **less popular** in some countries (**than** in others).

To show that two things are (not) the same, use (not) as + adjective + as.

In my country, surreal humor is **as popular as** slapstick humor.

#### **Adverbs**

Adverbs follow the same rules as adjectives.

That comedian speaks **faster than** the others.

Memes are **more easily** shared than other kinds of humor.

I don't like slapstick as much as other kinds of humor.

#### **Nouns**

With nouns, use more + noun + than.

She knows more jokes than I do.

Use (not) as many / much + noun + as.

I do**n't** know **as many jokes as** my friend does.

We have as much time as we did last week.

L COMPANY COMPANY COMPANY IN SCHOOL WILL A COMPANY IN	ith a comparative form.	sentences with a	Complete the	GRAMMAR	Е
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1. Her jokes are very funny. Mine are not very funny.

	- , , - , - , , - , ,	
	Her jokes are	mine.
2.	My story was very humorous. Hers was very humorous, too.	
	My story was	hers.
3.	My friend, Tan, cries very easily at films. My friend, Sonia, doesn't cry very ea	sily at films.
	Tan cries	_ at films than Sonia.
4.	I smile a little bit. I used to smile a lot.	
	I don't smile	I used to.
5.	I've seen several comedies recently. He hasn't seen any comedies this year.	
	I've seen	he has.

# **F GRAMMAR** Underline the comparative forms in these sentences. Then take turns asking and answering the questions with a partner.

- 1. Do you have more homework now than you did a year ago?
- 2. Do you have more friends now than you had five years ago?
- 3. Do you buy more clothes than you used to?
- 4. Are you more independent than you were a year ago?
- 5. Do you laugh as much as you did when you were younger?
- 6. Can you understand English better than you did a year ago?

## **EFLECT** Consider the role of humor in your life.

Read the statements and check (✓) your response. Then work with a partner. Explain and compare your responses. How are you the same? How are you different?

	No, not at all.	Sometimes.	Yes, absolutely.
1. I find it easy to remember jokes.			
2. I find it difficult to tell jokes.			
3. I laugh a lot when I'm alone.			
4. I enjoy watching romantic comedies.			
5. I find slapstick humor very funny.			
6. People find me naturally funny.			

## PREPARE TO LISTEN

A	V	OCABULARY	Listen to the words in bold and	choose the correct meaning. 🙃 5.2
	1.	I don't think these	two paragraphs <b>belong</b> together.	They're not even about the same topic.
		a. fit or go	b. exist	c. ioin or attach

- 2. I don't have high **expectations** for the comedy show tonight. The tickets were cheap and none of the comedians are well known.
  - a. what one hopes will happen
- b. what one thinks will happen
- c. what one knows will happen

- 3. He looks mean and unfriendly, but he's harmless.
  - a. honest

b. not dangerous

- c. not friendly
- 4. I don't like humor that's mean and suggests that some people are inferior to others.
  - a. not as good as

b. better than

- c. the same as
- 5. You should look at the situation from her **perspective** before you reach a conclusion.
  - a. opinion

b. position

- c. background
- 6. It was a **relief** when I finally passed my exams. I felt I could relax again.
  - a. feeling of ease

- b. feeling of unhappiness
- c. feeling of boredom
- 7. The things that happened in the film were **ridiculous** and would never happen in real life, but it was funny anyway.
  - a. very clever

b. very silly

- c. very normal
- 8. She uses humor to suggest that she's smarter, more talented, and, to put it simply, just **superior** to everyone else.
  - a. not as good as
- b. better than

- c. the same as
- 9. The last time they met they had a big argument, so when they saw each other this time, there was **tension** in the room.
  - a. unhappiness

b. sadness

- c. nervousness
- 10. I don't like him. I think his behavior is **threatening**, and I don't know what he will do next.
  - a. making you feel tired
- b. making you feel relaxed
- c. making you feel danger

### **B PERSONALIZATION** Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1. What kind of **expectations** should we have for our friends?
- 2. Do you find films from your country **superior** or **inferior** to Hollywood films?
- 3. What kind of humor do you find **harmless**? What kind can cause **tension**?
- 4. What's the most **ridiculous** thing you have ever seen or done?



"That book is not available at this branch, this library system or this solar system, but we can order it for you."

## COMMUNICATION TIP

Here are different ways to respond to jokes in English.

- ≅ That's a good one!/Very funny!
- Hmm . . . maybe that's not my kind of humor.
- ! I don't get it! Can you explain?
- C APPLY Listen to three jokes and check (✓) your response. Compare your response with a partner. Use a phrase from the Communication Tip. ☐ 5.3

	I think it's funny.	I don't think it's funny.	I don't understand it.
Joke 1			
Joke 2			
Joke 3			

## REFLECT Tell a joke.

You are going to listen to a talk on different theories of why jokes are funny. Work with a partner and tell your favorite joke or a joke that you have heard before. Note your partner's reaction to your joke. Then discuss why you think each joke is funny or not.

# **LISTEN & SPEAK**

# WHY IS THAT FUNNY?

# FOUR THEORIES ABOUT HUMOR

A PREVIEW Listen to the introduction to a talk. The introduction contains a joke. Try to remember it and retell it to a partner. 15.4

B M	AIN IDEAS	Listen to the ta	lk and match the	e theories to th	e explanations. 🙃 5.5
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- 1. \_\_\_\_ Superiority theory
- a. We laugh because someone breaks a rule or norm but in a safe way.
- 2. \_\_\_\_ Incongruity theory
- b. We laugh because an object or an action is strange or unexpected in that situation.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Relief theory

- c. We laugh because it makes us feel that we are better or smarter than the person in the joke.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Benign challenge theory
- d. We laugh because, at first, we feel stressed, but then everything turns out OK and we feel better.

### C PHRASES TO KNOW Read the definitions.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrases.

out of place: wrong in that situation

pull out: to take something out of another thing
walk into: to hit something accidentally when you aren't

looking

1. The first hunter quickly \_\_\_\_\_ his

mobile phone.

- 2. Take the person who isn't looking and \_\_ a streetlight.
- 3. Something which is incongruous is \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILS** Listen to the four theories again. Then answer each question. 15.5

### **Superiority theory**

- 1. According to this theory, why do we laugh when someone walks into a streetlight?
- 2. What types of humor can this theory *not* explain?

### **Incongruity theory**

- 3. According to the speaker, where would a boat be incongruous?
- 4. What, in short, is the problem with this theory?

### Relief theory

- 5. According to this theory, what happens to the tension that we feel in a joke?
- 6. What kind of humor can this theory not explain?

### Benign challenge theory

- 7. What does benign mean?
- 8. According to this theory, what is challenged in wordplay?



Western Cape Province, South Africa

## LISTENING SKILL Recognize connectors in speech

Recognizing **connectors** in speech can help you understand what a speaker has said and what they are going to say. Here are some common connectors.

▶ To add similar information: *moreover, furthermore, in addition* 

*Moreover*, superiority theory explains why everyone hates being laughed at.

- ▶ To add similar information that is less important: *incidentally*, *by the way* This, **incidentally**, happened in an art museum in the Netherlands.
- ▶ To introduce contrasting information: *the problem/trouble is that* . . . , on the other hand

**The problem** with this theory **is that** it can't explain surreal humor.

► To restate information: *to put it another way*, *put simply* 

To put it another way, it's incongruous and therefore funny.

► To summarize information: *in short*, *to summarize* 

in short

In short, incongruity theory just seems too simple.

Ε	<b>APPLY</b>	Listen to the section on inco	ngruity theory ag	ain. Number these
	connecto	ors in the order that you hear t	them. 6 5.6	

a.	in short
b.	moreover
C.	incidentally
d.	to put it another way
e.	the trouble is that
	<b>PPLY</b> Listen and check (✓) the sentence that naturally follows what the eaker says. ☐ 5.7
1.	a my grandfather was a comedian, too.
	b my grandfather was a police officer.
2.	a they don't always realize that they are doing this.
	b they try to make other people feel inferior.
3.	a it doesn't explain why we don't laugh at serious accidents.
	b it also explains why we laugh at self-deprecating humor.
4.	a the joke was a big success.
	b some people called to ask where they could buy a spaghetti tree



### **UNIT TASK**

Give a presentation about humor in your country.

You are going to present a profile of humor in your country in general and for your generation in particular. You will talk about the importance of humor, how people watch and enjoy it, and what kind of humor they prefer. Use the ideas, vocabulary, and skills from the unit.

# **G MODEL** Listen to a student. Take notes and then use your notes to complete the chart. 15.8

My country in general	My generation
□ very important	□ very important
☐ fairly important	☐ fairly important
☐ not very important	☐ not very important
□ on TV	□ on TV
☐ in books	☐ in books
☐ on mobile phones	☐ on mobile phones
☐ slapstick	□ slapstick
☐ practical jokes	☐ practical jokes
☐ surreal humor	☐ surreal humor
	<ul> <li>□ very important</li> <li>□ fairly important</li> <li>□ not very important</li> <li>□ on TV</li> <li>□ in books</li> <li>□ on mobile phones</li> <li>□ slapstick</li> <li>□ practical jokes</li> </ul>

H Listen again and check your answers in activity G. 615.8

## **SPEAKING SKILL** Introduce contrasting information

There are various ways to point out differences between ideas when speaking.

### Contrast an idea in a previous sentence

In general, people like to watch humorous shows on TV. **In contrast**, my generation uses their mobile phones to watch comedy.

My friends and I often share short, funny videos. The older generation, on the other hand, doesn't seem to share as many things online.

We often tell funny stories. **However**, we rarely tell jokes.

#### Contrast ideas between two clauses

He thought the joke was funny, **but** no one laughed.

We're constantly watching humorous things **although** we don't often watch them on TV.

While most people like slapstick, my generation prefers practical jokes.

The average person likes slapstick, whereas we prefer surreal memes.

I APPLY Use the chart to compare different generations with a partner. Change any details in the table that you think are not correct.

Most baby boomers prefer to use telephones to communicate, whereas millennials prefer to use instant messages.

Baby boomers Ge		Generation X	Millennials	Generation Z
	between 1946 and 1964	between 1965 and 1979	between 1980 and late 90s	between the late 90s and 2010s
Preferred way to communicate	telephone	email	instant message	emoji
Global population when they were born	3 billion	4 billion	5.5 billion	7.5 billion
Significant development or innovation for this generation	moon landings	first personal computers	beginning of social media	rise of algorithms and A.I.

### **CRITICALTHINKING** Avoid stereotypes

A **stereotype** is a fixed, often negative idea about a group of people. Stereotypes lead us to believe that all people in a group are the same when, in fact, people within a group are different. Stereotypes have a negative impact on us because they prevent us from seeing people, groups, and society clearly and fairly. They interfere with our ability to think critically.

**J APPLY** Work with a small group. What stereotypes do people make about your generation? Do you agree with any of the stereotypes? Explain.

### PRONUNCIATION Focus words in contrasting information 15.9

Important content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) are usually stressed, but when the speaker contrasts information, the words that contain the contrast will have extra stress.

Baby boomers watch funny shows on TV, but **my** generation likes to watch funny things on their **mobile phones**.

We like stories, but telling jokes is **not** something we do very much.

- **K PRONUNCIATION** Listen and underline the words with the contrasting information. Then listen again and repeat. 15.10
  - 1. She likes slapstick, but I prefer self-deprecating humor.
  - 2. We watch humor online, but they usually watch it on TV.
  - 3. In contrast to my peers, I don't enjoy practical jokes.
  - 4. The average person likes slapstick, whereas we prefer surreal memes.
- **L PRONUNCIATION** Read the sentences and underline the words that you expect to be the contrasting information. Then listen, check your answers, and repeat. **5.11** 
  - 1. Generation Z was born between the late 90s and 2010s, while Generation X was born much earlier.
  - 2. I'm a fan of surreal humor although my parents hate it.
  - 3. In contrast to my friends, I don't spend hours online watching videos.
  - 4. I felt relaxed, while some people felt there was a lot of tension in the room.
  - 5. Everybody loves humor; however, not everyone loves the same kind of humor.
  - 6. I like watching funny videos, but it might be more fun making them.

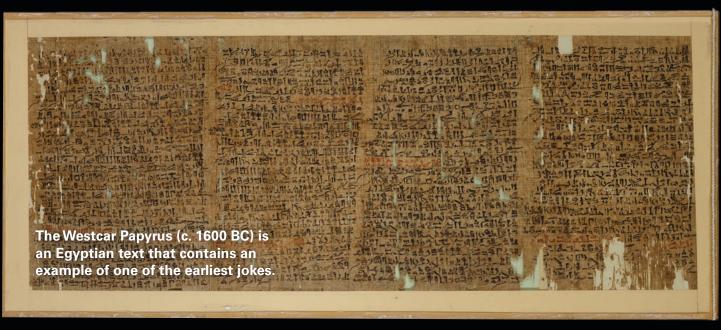
### M PLAN Make notes in the chart to answer the questions.

	My country in general	My generation
How important is humor?		
Where do people look to find humor (e.g., TV, magazines, online, etc.)?		
What are the most popular types of humor?		

**N PRACTICE** Use your notes and this checklist to practice your presentation.

Have you included . . . ?

- ☐ a contrast between your country in general and your generation
- ☐ examples from you and your friends
- ☐ phrases to introduce contrasting information
- $\square$  a summary of the information in your talk
- ☐ vocabulary from this unit
- **O UNIT TASK** Work in groups of three or four and present your information. As you listen to other students, take notes. Which person's ideas are most similar to yours?



# REFLECT

A	A Check (✓) the Reflect activities you can do and the academic skills you can use.						
	☐ analyze what makes	you laugh	☐ recognize co	☐ recognize connectors in speech			
	$\hfill\Box$ consider the role of h	numor in your life	☐ introduce co	☐ introduce contrasting information			
	☐ tell a joke		□ comparative	☐ comparative forms			
	$\ \square$ give a presentation a	bout humor in your coun	try  avoid stereo	$\square$ avoid stereotypes			
В	Write the vocabulary words from the unit in the correct column. Add any other words the you learned. Circle words you still need to practice.						
	NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB & OTHER			
С	Reflect on the ideas in	the unit as you answer	these questions.				
		interesting thing that yo					
		mice. coming aiming and yo					
	2. How can a good sense of humor help you in life?						
	3. What is the most important thing you learned in this unit?						