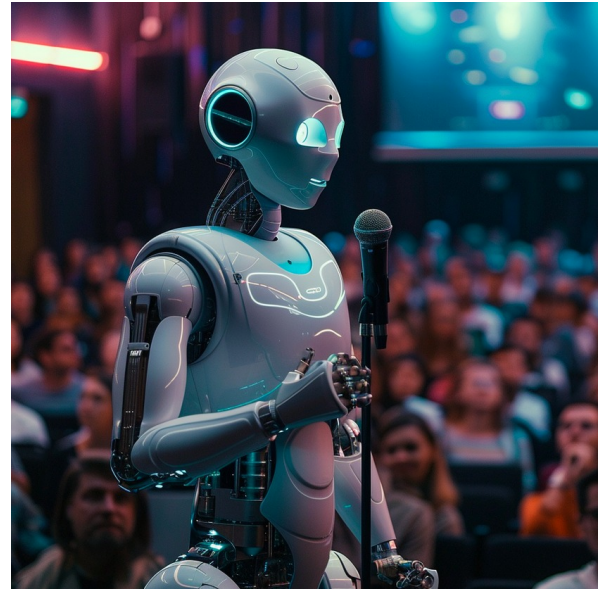**lingua**house**.com**

ROBOT COMEDY

Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1D5I-C3MF-R5DZ

1 Warm up

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. What was the last thing that you watched that really made you laugh?

2. What do you usually watch if you want to laugh? Why?

3. Do you enjoy watching comedy? Why/Why not?

2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

1.	intersection (n)	a.	provide the things which are needed or wanted in a particular situation
2.	expressive (adj.)	b.	a total amount made up of smaller amounts of something
3.	venture (n)	c.	a quality or feature of something which helps to define it
4.	collaborate (v)	d.	clearly showing your thoughts and feelings in the way you act
5.	attribute (n)	e.	a business or project that is risky to some degree
6.	cater (v)	f.	work together with someone else in order to achieve a shared goal
7.	aggregate (adj.)	g.	the place where two different things meet

Part B: Complete the following sentences with a different part of speech from the same word family as the Part A word in brackets.

1. As an Asian, a woman and a Muslim, she expertly weaves together her _____ identities in her memoir. (intersection)

2. I've always found that due to its unmatched _____, Opera affects me in a way that no other medium does. (expressive)

3. We're planning to _____ into the jungle outside of Pai in Northern Thailand next week. I understand there's an amazing trail that takes you to a waterfall. (venture)

4. The project is essentially a _____ between my family and my husband's family which brings our combined expertise together. (collaborate)

5. The disaster was _____ to a mixture of poor weather in the area and human error. (attribute)

6. We've been forced to change the company who is doing the _____ for the wedding at the last moment due to financial issues. (cater)

7. Having finished the game, the scores were _____ to determine the winner. (aggregate)

3   Watching for details

You are going to watch a video about a robot doing a comedy. Watch it and answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of the speaker's business?

    _____

2. Which city is the business based in?

    _____

3. What is the name of the robot?

    _____

4. What does red mean during the talk?

    _____

5. How many times has the robot performed live for an audience before?

    _____

4   Understanding the video

Choose the best answer a - c for each of the following questions. Then watch the video again to check your answers.

1. Which fields of research does the speaker want to mix together?

    a. science and comedy

    b. entertainment and robotics

    c. robotics and drama

2. What is the primary aim of the speaker?

    a. to improve the ability of robots to communicate with people

    b. to find new ways of entertaining people

    c. to introduce the idea of robots being celebrity personalities

3. What is her secondary motivation?

    a. to learn more about different types of humour

    b. to gather information for her degree in robotics

    c. to encourage an interest in science and technology

4. Why does the speaker mention Netflix?

    a. The robot responds to the audience's preferences in a similar way.

    b. The subscription service did a documentary on the robot's design.

    c. The robot trained by watching comedy specials on the site.

5. Why does the speaker tell the audience to be honest about their reactions?

    a. It's important for the research she's conducting.

    b. The robot can't be offended if they don't enjoy it.

    c. The robot will know if they're not being honest.

6. Why is the second joke funny?

    a. The Swiss famously don't get involved in any conflict.

    b. The Swiss Army knife is much better quality than indicated.

    c. The Swiss Army knife is intended for survival not combat.

7. What is the basis of the humour in the third joke?

    a. miscommunication

    b. laughing at misfortune

    c. physical comedy

8. What is the target of the fourth joke?

    a. The difference in how a robot and a human acts.

    b. The low quality of many television shows.

    c. The way books aren't usually very popular.

5   Skimming for gist

You are going to read an article about the elements of humour. Match sentences a - h to gaps 1 - 6. You will not need to use all of the sentences.

a. Politicians are often the target of this humour too as we attempt to temporarily reduce their power over the societies in which we live.

b. It's precisely the seriousness of the situation that causes them to giggle repeatedly.

c. This type of humour can be as simple as an unexpected reaction to an event, or even an unexpected consequence to an entire situation.

d. The audience was so shocked that many of them left and most demanded a refund.

e. Finding humour in the disastrous events in our lives helps us to heal.

f. The attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York on September 11th 2001 were horrific and resulted in the loss of almost 3000 people that day.

g. As a result, the comedian was not allowed to perform in over 20 countries and had his social media accounts suspended.

h. The exact measure of what will make each of us laugh varies wildly, but there are some elements which all jokes have in common.
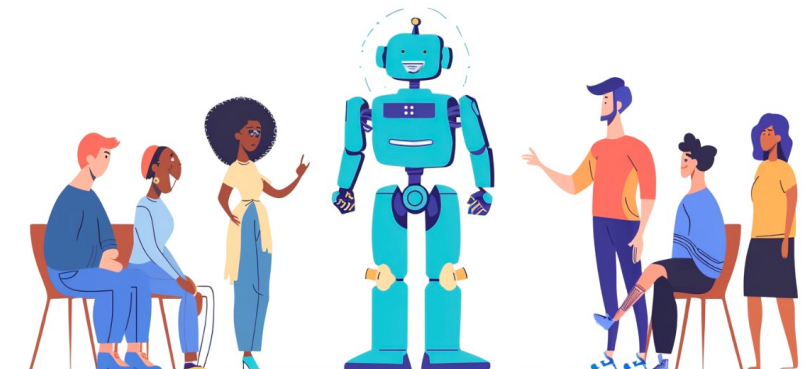
What's so funny?

The elements of humour

A. We've all been met with an uncomfortable silence following our attempts to crack a joke. Humour affects us all differently and our response to a joke can range from a smile, to hysterics, to anger and offence. _____[1] Here we look at four.

B. They say that comedy equals tragedy plus time or distance. Events that can be distressing or even fatal for people can later be sources for comedy depending on how they are dealt with. As long as there is some protective barrier. _____[2] Thousands more had their lives destroyed by losing the victims and dealing with the trauma of the event. Yet it is frequently a subject used in comedy in the US during the 20-plus years since it happened. Pete Davidson, a popular comedian and former host of Saturday Night Live has used it for his material and he lost his father in the tragedy. _____[3] When we're laughing, we're safe, we're happy.

C. When laughter has a sense of wrongness to it, this can encourage it even more. Whether it's a joke that we know we shouldn't laugh at, or laughing in a situation where it's inappropriate, the context can make it worse. You don't have to search the internet for long to find 'blooper' reels full of actors crying with laughter as they attempt to deliver a serious line in a dramatic moment. _____[4]

D. Unfortunately, other people suffering misfortunes either due to chance or their own stupidity is always going to be a source of laughter. We feel a relief that it's not us which causes us to laugh. Ever since video cameras have been widely available, there have been many shows showing people falling over at an inopportune moment and other such embarrassments. _____[5] Feeling superior to the President, for example, is something that many people will warm to.

E. There can be the fourth type of humour mixed into this too. Surprise is frequently the cause of our laughter too. Seeing a head of state fall as they climb the steps to a plane, or walk out with toilet paper stuck to their shoe is incongruous as we're expecting formality but see error. _____[6]

F. What unites all of us and our cultures is that there will be elements of one or more of all four of these in anything we laugh at. How much we laugh will be affected by the exact amount of each. Age, culture, context and delivery of a joke also play a large part. Despite its complexities though, humour will always have a place in our personal psychology, our communities and our existence.

sources: scientificamerican.com, psychologytoday.com

6   Finding vocabulary

Find vocabulary in the article on page five which has the same meaning as the following definitions.

1. _____ (n, para. A): uncontrollable laughter

2. _____ (adj. para. B): resulting in death

3. _____ (n, para. B): a mental condition following a deeply unpleasant event

4. _____ (n, para. C): a mistake made in front of others which causes embarrassment

5. _____ (adj. para. D): happening at a time that is not convenient

6. _____ (adj. para. D): having better quality than something else

7. _____ (adj. para. E): odd and not fitting in to, or standing out in a particular situation

8. _____ (n, para. F): a state of being difficult to understand

7   Talking point

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. What was your opinion of the robot in the video? Would you want to watch a robot doing comedy? Why/Why not?

2. What kind of films or television programmes do you find funny? What is it about them which makes you laugh?

3. What type of comedy do you not find funny? Why?

4. What kind of humour do people from your country generally share?

5. Have you been in a situation where you were not supposed to laugh, but did? What was the situation? What happened?

8 Optional extension / homework

Write a review of a comedy film or programme that you watched.

Consider the following questions to help you:

- What was the general situation in the film or TV programme?

- What made you decide to watch it in the first place?

- What was your opinion of it?

- What type of humour did it involve?

- What would you say to someone who was thinking of watching it?

You should:

- write at least 150 words,

- check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.