

# Comedy



**What makes you laugh? What makes your friends laugh? How about your parents, or your grandparents? Your answer may be different for each of these questions. No matter the sense of humor, any performance that's made to be funny falls into the category of comedy.**

**Read about the history of comedy. Then, answer the question below.**



From the Three Stooges whacking each other with fake, oversized hammers to the simple observations of stand-up comedians, comedy has always had one goal: to make people laugh. People who perform comedy, called comedians, usually do this in two different ways: physical comedy, which involves making funny gestures or silly faces, or by telling jokes.

Ancient Romans loved comedy, and Shakespeare was as famous for his comedies as he was for his tragedies. Vaudeville popularized slapstick and physical comedy, and stand-up comedians became stars in the mid-20th century. Comedy is always evolving, but it never stops cracking people up!

**Do you have a favorite joke? How about a favorite funny movie? Write down one thing that makes you laugh, and why you find it funny.**

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