

Slapstick



Slapstick is physical comedy, or comedy that relies on movements of the body and not on spoken jokes. Slapstick is often seen in cartoons and kids' movies.

Physical comedy dates all the way back to ancient Greece, when performers called buffoons toured the land, telling silly stories and doing tricks for villagers. Court jesters did similar acts during Medieval and Renaissance times, only they performed for nobles. Before sound was invented for movies, actors used physical comedy to make their audience laugh!

The name slapstick comes from the instrument that Renaissance clowns would use in their acts. Clowns would use it during routines, and it made a loud slapping noise to accent the physical comedy. Many slapstick jokes show people hurting themselves or someone else: no one is ever injured, but the reactions are always over-the-top.

Slapstick is often used when something in a plot goes wrong. Grab a friend (or even a parent!) and write a slapstick routine about an everyday situation taking a turn for the worst!

Here are some classic slapstick “moves” to work into your scene:

- Pie in the face
- Slipping on or tripping over something (like a banana peel, for instance...)
- Accidentally walking into a wall
- Prtfall (that means falling and landing on your bottom!)

