

# Keith Speaking Academy

## Live Lesson Notes

# Comedy



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The Riddle:

As I was going to St. Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives,  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits:  
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,  
How many were there going to St. Ives?  
Answer: 1

## Some useful Links

This one is about different types of **British Humour**

<http://greatbritishmag.co.uk/uk-culture/10-types-of-british-humour-explained/>

Some great **short jokes**

<https://www.rd.com/list/short-jokes/>

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## Essential Vocabulary

It's a **comedy** (n.)

I like **comedy** (adj.) shows.

I like **comedies** (genre/type)

He is a *hilarious* **comedian** (person)

He is a professional **comic** (person) (also a magazine)

That pay rise is **comical** (adj.)

## Some of Your Favourite Comedians

Mr Bean - character

Rowan Atkinson - comedian

Mr. Gabriel Iglesias

Jim Carrey

Laurel and Hardy

Kemal Sunal

Michael McIntyre

Kevin Hart

Charlie Chaplin

Frankie Boyle

Kapil Sharna

Robin Williams

Trevor Noah

George Carlin and Dave Chapelle

Adam Sandler

Charlie sheen

Vaigaipuyal Vadivelu

Doug Standhope

## **Some British Comedians I suggest you explore!**

Peter Kay

Tommy Cooper

Michael McIntyre

Miranda Hart

John Bishop

Russel Howard

Jennifer Saunders

## Part 1

*The following are the kinds of questions you might be asked in IELTS Speaking.*

### **Do you like watching funny TV shows?**

If I am **in the mood for** comedy,

then, yes I do

I am really fond of **stand-up comics**

so I will often watch a show called...

...**if I remember correctly**, I think it's called 'The Comedy Channel'

where I can see some of **my favourite comedians perform**

If I am **feeling blue /down** (=sad),

then I like to watch **my favourite sitcom**

which is 'Friends'.

It's about a group 30-something-year olds

and how their relationships develop and change .

It really helps me **unwind** and **disconnect**

from my daily routine

## Do you like to make people laugh?

I like to **mimic** / **imitate** people (=copy)

I am good at **doing impersonations** of famous people (= imitate / copy the voice of mannerisms of someone)

*(a parody - imitate someone to make fun of them)*

Yes, it helps **reduce the tension**

It's a great way to **relieve the stress**

I am into **telling jokes**

I love to **crack** jokes when I am with friends

That **cracks me up** = it makes me laugh

Yes, I **have a knack of** making people laugh (= I have a talent for it)

I **enjoy a good laugh**, but I am not good at **telling jokes**

Well, I try to tell jokes, but whenever I get to the **punchline**, I usually **mess it up!**

The **punchline** of a joke is the last line - where the joke is 'revealed'

## Do you think it is important for friends to laugh together?

Yes, with all the **pressure on our shoulders**

we need to **disconnect** sometimes,

and **having a laugh with friends**

is a great way to do that.

\*\*\*\*\*

For sure, they say **laughter is the best medicine**

And it's so true.

When I am out and about with friends

we always **end up** laughing at some joke **or other**

I think we all need to laugh

to relieve our stress

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, it can help **strengthen the bond** between us

Yes, so we can build a **deeper connection**

Yes, it can help determine if we **are in the same boat** (= on the same wavelength = have the same things in common)

It **creates a good vibe** for the group

It helps us all **unwind**

We need to **take things with a pinch of salt!** = not too seriously!

## Types of Comedy / Humour

**Parody** (n.) = when you imitate someone

**Satire** (n.) = ridicule or mock / make fun of someone

**Visual humour** = comedy that doesn't rely on words

**Slapstick** (n.) = visual humour, usually falling, hitting, knocking things.

**Stand up comedy** = comics telling jokes on stage

**Observational comedy** = giving a funny twist to everyday life routines

**Sitcoms** = Situational Comedy (e.g *Friends*, *Big Bang Theory*)

**Musical comedies**

**Romantic comedies**

Check out different types of **British Humour** in this link

<http://greatbritishmag.co.uk/uk-culture/10-types-of-british-humour-explained/>

**Wit** (n) = comedy that uses a **play on words** or a '**pun**'

*A play on words or a pun is using the second meaning of a word to make the story funny.*

e.g. What is black and white and **read** (*red*) all over? A newspaper!

*This joke uses the 2 meanings of the sound 'red / read' which can mean the colour or the past of the verb to read.*



Here are some more examples below

**A bear walks into a bar and says, “Give me a whiskey and...cola.”**

**“Why the big pause?” asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. “I’m not sure; I was born with them.”**

**A woman in labor suddenly shouted, “Shouldn’t! Wouldn’t! Couldn’t! Didn’t! Can’t!”**

**“Don’t worry,” said the Doc. Those are just contractions.”**

All of these jokes below use ‘puns’ or a play on these words:

**Pause** (hesitation) / **Paws** (animals’ hands or feet) (same pronunciation)

**Contractions** (movement when a woman is giving birth / reducing a word to a short form)

**Space** (room / area beyond the earth)

**Type** (kind of person / kind of font for writing)

**Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?**

**He just needed a little space.**

**Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar.**

**“Get out of here!” shouts the bartender. “We don’t serve your type!”**

All of these are taken from this website

**<https://www.rd.com/list/short-jokes/>**

## Common English Jokes

A \_\_\_ walks into a bar...

**Knock knock!**

Who's there?

Lettuce

Lettuce who?

Let us in, it's cold out here!

**Knock knock!**

Who's there?

Ivor

Ivor who?

I've a lot of money, so let me in!

**Did you hear about the Irishman who....?**

Did you hear about the Irishman who swam from Ireland to England. He got so tired half way across that he decide to turn around and go back!

*Irishman are the butt (target) of many British jokes.*

*Most countries use someone as the butt of many of their jokes, although nowadays this is often not seen as being Politically Correct (P.C.) and may be seen as offensive. Please be careful when telling such jokes in English to people you do not know very well.*

## More vocabulary and Idiomatic expressions

To tell / **crack a joke**

My joke **raised a smile** = made someone laugh

My joke got a few laughs

To have a (good) laugh

All of the following mean to **laugh out loud**

- I was in stitches
- I split me sides laughing
- I burst out laughing
- I was laughing in the aisles

It was **a barrel of laughs** = it was a lot of fun

To **laugh** something **off** = to laugh about it / not worry about it

When I didn't get the score I wanted, I decided to just **laugh it off**

To have a good / twisted / dry / dark **sense of humour**

To laugh (v.)

A laugh (n. - countable). We had a laugh

Laughter (n. - uncountable, more general meaning) - I heard laughter in the classroom