52 Humor Tips

1. Fastest route to funny is paying attention to “2-way options” …Or ambiguous phonetics…words that can be misinterpreted by others. (Geico Commercials right now are fantastic examples)
   1. The phrase Carpenter Ant takes on a whole new meaning if you think your Aunt is a house builder
   2. My Carpenter Aunt Mary
2. Humor preys on the predictability of people, so does good storytelling
3. When you open your mouth, you are using words, like a painter uses a brush. You control what your audience sees, so use it wisely. The most important word goes at the end of every sentence
4. Watch people who make you laugh…What do they do? Why do YOU think it makes you laugh?
5. You cannot become funnier solely by writing. You have to practice what comes out of your mouth.
6. Facial reactions are a weapon in your arsenal and that weapon should be “on” at all times. A poker face should only be used when playing poker.
7. The first half of humor is creating a picture in the minds of the people you are speaking to, and making it take them exactly where YOU want them to go.
8. To do this, liberally fill your presentations with the 4 Descriptors … Sights, Sounds, Smells and Sensations….He laughed becomes, I could feel the rippling effect of his belly laugh expanding across the table
9. The second half is destroying that picture in as few words as possible
10. Most laughter comes from surprise… what can you do to destroy the picture you just painted?
11. Dialogue makes things funnier …. Don’t Narrate, let your life’s characters show people rather than tell them. Inner dialogue is better than explaining your thoughts. What else is around you …and what if it could talk?
12. Create characters out of inanimate objects, and let them speak
13. Inner dialogue…. Use the “show, don’t tell” principle to let the audience know how you feel. “well, this is awkward” vs. I felt awkward.
14. Actions Words Expressions and Emotions set the scene
15. Practice “what else does this look like?” I woke up looking at my ceiling fan and decided it looked like Bart Simpson skydiving
16. Reverse emotions – practice changing emotions in the mirror.
17. Break down words and play with them. Amusement could be A Muse Meant, take the fun out of dysfunction, put the pow back in Power
18. Nickname characters….it creates more interest in them
19. The Devil’s in the details. Use the 4 descriptors to paint your picture….every word, every gesture creates to the canvas that your audience sees.
20. Make sure you are clearly heading them down the path YOU want them to take.
21. Unsolved great mysteries with simple solutions.ie, the jumpy house in the belly of the plane causes turbulence
    1. Its like Gods zit just popped… (volcano)
22. Ridiculous answers to everyday questions
23. The mash up mistake
    1. Pavorotti’s dogs
24. The disclaimer or list of drug side effects
25. The Warren Thomas behind the curtain diagram
26. Carlin/Seinfeld intonation training
27. In venting there is inventing
28. Creativity burst before meetings
29. How can it get worse game?
    1. Comedy generally goes from good to bad and from bad to worse
30. Take cliché or inspirational quotes, and reverse engineer the story using a 2 way option as the catalyst
    1. Just another example of letting reality get in the way of your dreams
31. Re-write the second half of cliché’s
    1. A bird in the hand….can get messy
    2. When God closes a door, he always opens a window
32. Which means that
    1. When God closes a door, he always opens a window
    2. In our neighbor hood, God’s getting robbed
33. Analogies
34. People Are amazed at memorization
    1. Can you create acronyms for processes? (Gary Busey)
    2. Soap opera world
35. The Rule of 3
36. You can break any one of these rules
37. But you have to understand the structure of humor to be able to effectively break rules
38. Failure is funny. But Losers are not
    1. There must be hope
    2. Hope is discovering the Next Step
    3. The next step is inspirational
39. Humor is inspiring
    1. It lifts you up
    2. It shouldn’t tear down
40. Remember that acceptance is the key to Improv, and appropriate humor is accepting of all people
41. Humor has a high failure rate
    1. Yet people who try are perceived almost as well as those who are truly funny
    2. People who don’t try are viewed almost as badly as those that use inappropriate “put down” style of combative comedy
42. Interruptions and oddities in meeting are GOLD
    1. You must react positively to every distraction, interruption or pet appearance
    2. Your audience is looking at these distractions, and not you….
    3. Don’t embarrass ….encourage….particularly on zoom
43. Call backs are the way to create the biggest laugh to the start of your presentation,
    1. and the fastest way to be recognized as an effective speaker
    2. They also can make you lose your audience if you don’t “Know the room”
44. There is a fine line between comedy and tragedy
    1. Try not to cross it
    2. You will cross
    3. And you won’t even know it
    4. Hubble telescope story
45. How far is too far?
    1. As far as your confidence and skills will allow
    2. Pre-call the problem
       1. “theres a really sick second half to this story, but you look too nice to enjoy something like that
       2. So if I say something gross, nobodies going to get mad at me
46. In general, people love to show their scars, no one likes to share or see open wounds
47. Your personal business failure stories are uplifting to those that work below you, they give hope!!
    1. Retired admiral tank story
48. Crazy events that you create a message from though an obscure tie in
    1. Chicken tic tac toe
    2. Watermelon whisperer
49. GAP quoting
    1. Great American Philosopher
    2. The more insane the juxtaposition the better
50. Crazy Eddie Ads/Sunday Racing
51. Narrate a story as a pet
    1. What would the animals in the zoo say looking at the people?
    2. Monkees look real cute before they start flinging pooh…What’s going through their head?
52. Humor is not interested in the logic of someone’s ideas, it exists by preying on the Logic of their words.