

HOW TO WRITE A JOKE

If there's one thing we love about Nate Wright, it's his gift for pranking. So, we're here to teach you about the prank's little (yet still amusing) cousin: the joke.

Have you ever told a joke? Or heard a joke? No? You're *kidding*, right?

SEE WHAT WE DID THERE?

Anyway, enough horsing around. Here's our mini guide to getting a laugh and keeping your fans happy. Prepare to be the funniest kid in class!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ★ An audience (one pal or more)
- ★ A joke topic (list of ideas attached)
- ★ Confidence
- ★ A backup plan

STEP 1: PICK YOUR TOPIC

Every joke has a topic, and even the most basic subject can be funny. Take a look around you. Anything inspiring? Whatever you see or hear in your environment can be good joke material if you know how to deliver (more about that in step 3). If you're having a hard time coming up with joke material or ideas, print out the sheet attached.

Example: Your cat.

STEP 2: SET UP YOUR JOKE

You need to set up your joke so you can deliver the punchline. This is especially important in one-liners and shorter jokes.

Example: I told my cat yesterday that he had to stop hiding under the table. You want to know what he said?

STEP 3: USE PAUSE AND GESTURES

How you say your joke matters, but how you tell it with your hands, pauses between lines, facial expressions, and body language or movement... all that's what gets the laughs. Be confident and express emotion while you joke! Unless you have a dry sense of humor. In that case, maybe a straight face and a serious tone will do the trick.

Example: *Pause* briefly after asking, "You want to know what he said?" You can even put both hands on your hips to show your anger or annoyance at whatever mysterious reply the cat made. These tactics are part of the setup and make your audience anxious for the punchline.



STEP 4: SURPRISE YOUR AUDIENCE

A good joke will make the audience go “ah-ha” before saying “haha!” Find a way to deliver a punchline that no one saw coming, and startle your classmates with your wit.

Example: I told my cat yesterday that he had to stop hiding under the table. You want to know what he said? *Pause* Nothing. Cats can’t talk.

STEP 5: SAVE THE JOKE

Didn’t laugh at our sample joke? That’s okay. Sometimes jokes are funny like that. And by that we mean, sometimes jokes aren’t funny or don’t land well. Like Nate says, you got to own it! Just stay confident and try to save the joke if you can. (This is the backup plan we were talking about earlier)

Example: I told my cat yesterday that he had to stop hiding under the table. You want to know what he said? *Pause* Nothing. Cats can’t talk. *Pause* Now I wish I could hide under the table.

If you can’t save the joke, brush it off. Even our pal Nate has a bit of trouble pulling off pranks now and then. (Remember what happened with Dee Dee?) Don’t take your jokes (or yourself) too seriously. Just be you, be awesome, and have fun! 

