

How to Tell a Joke

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Everyone loves to hear a good joke. Here are a few tips from the experts to help you be the life of the party.

1 Practice, practice, practice, practice, and practice!

Tell your jokes to as many people as you can, or even to the cat, until you can tell them well.

2 Know your jokes!

Nothing is more embarrassing than forgetting your joke halfway through, or leaving out an important part, or forgetting the punchline.

3 Be confident!

Don't apologize or begin by saying you can't tell jokes very well. Just jump right in. And don't tell your audience how funny the joke is. This actually makes jokes LESS funny.

4 Less is more!

Good jokes are short and zippy. Leave out unnecessary details and don't explain things.

5 Time it right!

Don't rush! Speak clearly and confidently and try not to giggle. Move your joke along and let the punchline take the audience by surprise. Then let everyone laugh! Don't rush right into the next joke. That is called "stepping on your punchline."



6 Listen to your audience!

Do they look interested, or bored, or confused? Are they following your story? Are they ready for the punchline now? Your audience will let you know how to pace your jokes.



How Not to Tell a Joke

Now Zia will demonstrate how not to tell a joke. Can you spot Zia's mistakes?

- Forgetting the plot
- Getting distracted by details that don't matter
- Telling the audience how funny the joke is while you're telling it
- Forgetting the punchline
- Explaining the joke

I know a great joke!

There was a lady whose neighbors liked to play the piano—No, wait, it was the lady who played the piano. I think. I like pianos. They are black and white striped, just like me!

This joke is so funny! It is the funniest joke ever! The funny part is coming up now!

So one day a man comes to the door and says, your piano is out of tune! Ha ha ha!

See, it's funny because actually the neighbors sent him.



Now, shall we try that again?



There once was a woman who loved to play the piano.

All day long she pounded out scales and minuets and waltzes.

One day while she was playing away there was a knock at the door. She opened it to find a man standing on the step with a large bag of tools.

"Hello," he said. "I'm here to tune the piano."

"But I didn't send for a piano tuner," she said, surprised.

"I know," said the tuner. "Your neighbors did."