**Why?** It gets Attention (just look at who won the two speaking contests this year); Effectiveness; Memorable; Relief of Tension; Acceptance of Speaker; Encouraging to Speaker when s/he gets laughs; & most of all Health. **What? Basic idea of Humor is to break an expected result with a Surprise. (Surprise, Spice, and Superiority)**  
Humor is the SPICE not the main dish, so the pressure is off. Per TM Olson, it is Surprise and Superiority (of the audience over the speaker, not the other way around.)

**Comedy versus Humor: Comedy (Wit) Tears Down, while Humor Builds Up.**Comedy is cruelty (tears down), and has no point but to get laughs. Humor builds up and has a point.  
Mel Brooks, “Tragedy is me getting a paper cut, and Comedy is you falling down a man hole and dying.”  
**I. *S*elf (Ethos) – An appeal based upon the Character of the speaker. Know Your Self.**The most important thing in speaking and using humor, in life overall, is to feel comfortable with yourself.

**II. *S*pectators (Pathos) – An appeal based on Emotion. Know your Spectators (Audience)**It’s not about You but your audience. Not knowing audience is like a love letter: “To Whom it May Concern.”

**III. *S*tuff (Logos) – An appeal based on Logic or reason. Know your Stuff.** (It’s o.k. to copy these for practice.)

1. Element of Surprise: “Do You ever wake up Grumpy?” “No, I just let him sleep in.”
2. The Triple (Comedy comes in 3’s): Three husbands sharing stories of argument with wives. 1) “She threw me out of bed,” 2) “She threw me out of house,” 3) “She came crawling on hands and knees, saying, ‘Get out from under that bed and stand up like a man!’”
3. Zinging (Aha): “They told me they had free weights at the gym, so I took some.”
4. Exaggeration: “My wife told me a shaved head would make me look younger, and she was right. I now look like a baby!”
5. Implication: Grand Canyon Guide: “It took millions of years to carve this.” Visitor: “Oh, was it a government project?”
6. Play on Words: “One hospital is drastically cutting costs by having patients make their own beds. Upon admittance, they hand them a tool box and some wood.”
7. Reverse: My wife gave her friend a playpen, and we receive a thank you note. It read, “This pen is just what we needed. I sit in it every afternoon, and the kids can’t get near me!”
8. Clarification: “I’m a vegetarian. Well, not a strict vegetarian. I eat beef and pork, just not fish. That’s gross!”
9. Misunderstanding: “You don’t like meat? No problem, we’ll give you lamb.”

**Work It Out with Practice: Come up with 10 endings (because 9 will bomb) to one of the following scenarios:**

1. **I use wine when I cook . . . (example: “And sometimes I pour it into the pan.”)**
2. **My wife gave me a list of things to do … (e.g., warm a can of condensed milk, but the can exploded!)**
3. **My pet does some crazy things sometimes … (e.g., bites the hand that feeds it.)**
4. **Name your own crisis and funny reaction (e.g., being stuck in an elevator, trying to get a date, disappointing another, awkward moment, getting a ticket, waking up late, a surprise, an accident, etc.)**

**10 Reactions (Because 9 out of 10 will bomb, so try out a lot of options with friends):**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**

**Resources:**

1. **Toastmasters – Visit *Tales and Tellers* (2nd and 4th Sundays) and *Laugh Lovers* (1st and 3rd Sundays)  
   Where: Concord Denny’s, 1313 Willow Pass, Concord, CA 94520  
   When: Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (May 14th – “Find the Funny”; June 11 – “Write Funny”)**

**Contact: Brendan Murphy, DTM at (925) 899-5187 or** [**bm8527@me.com**](mailto:bm8527@me.com)

1. **Internet Resources (With Hyperlinks to Click On):**a. Charlie Houpert – Charisma on Command (Youtube Channel); [2015 TM World Champion Tips on Hooking Your Audience](https://youtu.be/k8GvTgWtR7o)  
   b. Rick Olson – Afunnieryou.com; Click here: [Humor Demystified](http://afunnieryou.com/humor-simplified-demystified/) and [Why You Need to Be Funnier](http://afunnieryou.com/why-you-need-to-be-funnier/)  
   c. Conor Neill: [How To Start a Speech](https://youtu.be/w82a1FT5o88)  
   d. Darren LaCroix – StageTimeUniversity.com; [Toastmasters Funniest Humorous Speech](https://youtu.be/qovsP1aaEQY)  
   e. T. Chendil Kumar (CK) – Youtube Humor Workshops: <https://youtu.be/YF3lpP6W6bU> and <https://youtu.be/1HB-IBlPjsM>

f. Other links for humorous examples:  
 i. My son, Jonathan, directed at Grove City All Campus Sing competition, winning with a humorous song: [2017 Champions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H0gEcifnl4)

ii. Winner of the Humorous Speech Contest NZ 2015: [Why Do You Do This To Me?](https://youtu.be/BSVsiO78An8)

iii. Bryan Foley’s attempt at Humor: [The Insurance Consultant](https://youtu.be/FKgGsOD2-NE?t=35s) and [Why Attend 2017 Spring Conference?](https://youtu.be/dh2uqkwspXU)

1. **Watch Comedians on Youtube and note how they tell stories:  
   a) Jim Gaffigan, b) Russell Peters, c) Brian Regan, d) Jerry Seinfeld, e) Ryan Hamilton, f) Jeff Allen,   
   g) Henry Cho, h) Bill Cosby, i) Ellen Degeneres, j) Joan Rivers, k) Bob Newhart, etc.**
2. **Books: “Story Theater Method” by Doug Stevenson (Ch 15 – On Comedy);  
   “Standup Comedy The Book” and “The Comedy Bible” by Judy Carter;  
   “Humorously Speaking” – Advanced Communication Series – Toastmasters;  
   “Comedy Writing Secrets” by Melvin Helitzer;  
   “The Ten Commandments of Comedy” by Gene Perret;  
   “The Comic Toolbox: How to be Funny, Even if You’re Not” by John Vorhaus**
3. **Bryan will be posting Highlights of the May 6th workshop on my Youtube channel later this week (5/8/17).**Go to my Youtube Channel (BryFry3): <https://www.youtube.com/user/Bryfry3>

Other Fun Stories with a Moral, for you to work with and improvise

1) The Travelling Salesman, Missionary, Tech Consultant, etc.

There was a guy who had a short-term assignment in South America, near a famous river. In the afternoons, he loved going for a swim in the great river, but he was concerned about the Pirannah fish there. He inquired of the local townspeople about his concern, and they assured him that "Pirannah fish never swarm in this part of the river." So, resting assured, the man went swimming, care free, for the entire two weeks that he stayed there.

A few weeks later, he heard that a man was killed while fishing in that same place along the South American great river. Concerned, he called up one of the local townsmen. "Did the fisherman die from the Pirannah fish?" the man asked.

"No, no, Pirannah fish never swarm in our part of the river, " the townsman repeated.

"Why aren't Pirannah fish a problem along your stretch of the river," the man queried.

"It's because of the giant alligator," the local finally offered.

The Moral of the story: Always ask the Right question.

2) The Long-Nosed, Short-Tailed, Terrier  
There was a man, in the late 1890s near London England, who was walking his prize fighting Pit Bull dog (I guess it’s still too soon to substitute this with Michael Vick ??) . This animal was undefeated in over 100 championship fights. Suddenly, around the corner walked another gentleman walking his odd-looking animal on a leash.

"What kind of a dog is that," asked the proud Englishman, with his pit bull. "Well, its a Long-nosed, short footted, long-tailed terrier, " chuckled the other guy.

"Does it fight," asked the greedy dog fighter. "Sure, it does," replied the odd fellow. "Would you be interested in fighting my pit bull?" asked the Englishman, thinking he was going to earn some easy money. "Fine," said the other guy.

Well, as soon as the animals were released, the long-nosed, short footed, long tailed terrier simply tore up the pit bull in the flash of an eye.

The humbled Englishman asked again, "What do you call your dog?" "I call it a long-nosed, short footed, long-tailed terrier. Some people call it an ALLIGATOR . . ."

Moral of the story: Titles aren't everything

3) FOG at the F.A.T.  
The story is told of a transportation dilemma in Fresno , California . It seems that many people wanted to commute to the big city of San Francisco . At first, Fresnans thought about lobbying for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (B.A.R.T.) to be extended southeastward to Fresno . But they eventually rejected the idea because they thought the new acronym stunk. Instead, the farmers decided to expand their Fresno Air Terminal (FAT).

Upon entering the new FAT early one January, an airman and his co-pilot ran into the Central Valley ’s infamous tule fog (a type of valley radiation fog). The FAT was saturated and too low to be detected above the fog. The airmen had never seen the new, massive layout of FAT, so they decided to duck under the clouds, get a view of the landing strip, and come back up to develop a game plan for their approach. After seeing the landing strip, while circling back, the pilot mentioned to the co-pilot, “Man, that has got to be the shortest runway I’ve ever seen!” The co-pilot concurred. “What we’ll do is, as soon as we descend under the clouds and touch the runway, I’ll signal to you to hit the reverse thrusters, and I think we’ll just make it,” the pilot conjectured. Again, the co-pilot nodded “yes,” as he braced for the worst. The plane descended through the pea-soup Tule fog and touched the runway. Then the pilot signaled to his fellow airman to hit the lever, and the plane screeched down the runway to an abrupt halt, an inch away from hitting the FAT.

“Schwew,” murmured the pilot, as he wiped sweat off of his brow, “that has got to be the SHORTEST runway I’ve ever seen.” The pilot shook his head in agreement, as he looked left through the cabin window and then to his right, and with his hands held outstretched, he said with amazement, “Yes, and it sure is the WIDEST one, too!”

Moral: Perspective is everything.

More than the fact that they may have needed a coronary stent after all the stress and FAT, the jet pilots had the wrong understanding about the right runway.

4) Distracted Driving  
There was a guy who drove his brand new Porsche Boxter down Main Street , smiling as he looked at his mirror reflection in the storefront windows, admiring himself and his worldly wares. With the man approaching the edge of town, a big semi-truck rounded the corner in front of him, causing the driver of the sports car to swerve off the road and over a cliff.

The car descended, but the man was ejected onto a ledge.

The truck driver jumped out of his vehicle and ran to help him. As the trucker approached, he heard the accident victim crying, “My Boxter, my Boxter, I lost my Boxter…”

The other guy replied, “Hey buddy, I’d be more worried about my left arm I just lost than about the car.”

The sports car driver then looked to his left side and began weeping even more fervently, “Oh no, no, no . . ."

"What?," asked the truck driver"

"No, not my Rolex too! My Rolex, my Rolex….”

Moral: Life is more important than things. Be grateful with what you have.

5) Three intro jokes:

1. I don’t know if you realize it, but our Toastmaster is a scratch golfer, and one weekend, we were having a team outing on the golf course. Needless to say, I’d kill everyone at following the pill around the nines, if you won by having the highest score! Anyway, at one hole, my ball landed on an ant hill, and I just couldn’t strike the ball. The funny thing was that each time I swung and missed, I would club an underlying ant colony, and TM heard this strange noise emanating from the dirt, which got louder and louder. Finally, on my tenth swing, he could make out the noise, and he later told me what he heard. It was the ants screaming, “We’d better get on the ball, or we’re all going to die!!!” . . . So with that, I guess we’d better get on the ball and start our presentation . . .
2. Story for Balance  
   The Toastmaster and I were on our way out here to Las Vegas, we had a little time to check out the town, and being a connoisseur of comparative religions, I got TM to join me in visiting this far eastern religious building. When we went in the building, it was really dark inside, and TM wanted to leave, but I said, “No, let’s check it out. It’ll be interesting,” so he stayed the course.  
     
   Then we found this long corridor leading to a bright light at the end of the tunnel. As we walked closer to the altar, we saw this big, toga bearing guy with a shaved head, sort of looking like a living Buddha. He was laughing hard, and we thought maybe he was laughing at us.  
     
   It was at that point that I ran up the steps and slapped him in the face, and I yelled, “Run, TM, run!” We scrambled out of the building, and catching our breath at the curb outside the building, TM asked me, “Bryan, what it the Wild Wild World of Sports were you thinking?????”  
     
   As I gasped for air, I replied, “Well, TM, my mother always told me to STRIKE A HAPPY MEDIUM!” . . . . You know, that’s what we are here for today, not to get into the complex details of high finance but to “Strike a Happy Medium” so to speak . . .
3. Roast Joke:  
   I had a dream last night, and TM was in it. I died and went to heaven, and as soon as I got to the Pearly Gates, St. Peter handcuffed me to a big old ugly, harry monster. “What’s this for?” I asked the gatekeeper. “You still have to do another 100 year’s penance for all your sins,” replied the Super Saint. So I was walking around heaven, and who did I see but TM, and he was handcuffed to Raquel Welch (pick your latest super model). I rushed to ask Peter, “Why do I have this harry behemoth at my side for 100 years and TM over there gets beautiful Raquel?” The Rock calmly replied, “Raquel has to do penance, too ya know!”
4. Roast Joke #2:  
   I dreamt I died and went to heaven, and as soon as I got there, I was given a piece of chalk the size of a telephone pole, told to climb the ladder in front of me and to begin tallying my many sins on the great chalkboard in the sky, before I could enter the pearly gates. I began my ascent up the Mt. Everest sized-ladder, and who did I see descending but TM! “You already done,” I asked. TM replied, “No, I’m need another piece of chalk.”

5) Elephant's Memory - A Touching Story.

In 1986, Mkele Mbembe was on holiday in Kenya after graduating   
from college. On a hike through the bush, he came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised in the air.   
  
The elephant seemed distressed so Mbembe approached it very   
carefully. He got down on one knee and inspected the elephant's foot, and found a large thorn deeply embedded in it.   
  
As carefully and as gently as he could, Mbembe worked the thorn   
out with his hunting knife, after which the elephant gingerly put down its foot.   
  
The elephant turned to face the man and with a rather stern look   
on its face, stared at him. For several tense moments Mbembe stood frozen, thinking of nothing else but being trampled.   
  
Eventually the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned and walked away.

Mbembe never forgot that elephant or the events of that day.   
  
Twenty years later he was walking through a zoo with his teenaged   
son. As they approached the elephant enclosure, one of the creatures   
turned and walked over to near where Mbembe and his son Tapu were standing.   
  
The large bull elephant stared at Mbembe and lifted its front foot off the   
ground then put it down. The elephant did that several times then trumpeted loudly, all the while staring at the man.   
  
Remembering the encounter in 1986, Mbembe couldn't help wondering if this was the same elephant.   
  
Mbembe summoned up his courage, climbed over the railing and made   
his way into the enclosure. He walked right up to the elephant and stared back in wonder.   
  
Suddenly the elephant trumpeted again, wrapped its trunk around one of the man's legs and swung him wildly back and forth along the railing, killing him.   
  
Probably wasn't the same elephant. Moral: Animals are animals, not people.

6) Man Needing a Job (My favorite joke because it makes the point to focus on who you really are, not on the outsides).

In 2001, with the telcommunications industry crash, an AFC engineer who had been out of work for nearly a year was looking in the Press Democrat want ads for a job. Finding none in his field, he happened upon an opening at the Healdsburg zoo. “What the heck,” the geek muttered, and he arranged to meet the curator. The zookeeper explained that they had just lost their prize gorilla, and since they did not have much money, they could not afford another one, so the opportunity was that this engineer would take two weeks of ape mannerism classes and act like a gorilla to improve the daily gate. “I’ll do anything,” said the hungry man, so after his classes, out stood the new attraction at the Healdburg zoo, in front of nearly 300 people that the local promotion and fanfare brought in.

People were throwing peanuts to encourage the hairy critter, and he began going through he newly learned routines, to the crowds enjoyment. Then, he had the bright idea to jump up on the monkey bars, and the fans went wild. The man in the monkey suit got so enthused by the applause that, on his final revolution, he lost his grip and flew over the fence, into the lion’s den. The people quickly ran over to see what the big cats would do.

Meanwhile, the engineer turned monkey was shaking in his boots, wondering how he was going to get out of this predicament, when all of the sudden, he felt a paw grab his right shoulder.

“GET ME OUT OF HERE . . . I’M NOT REALLY A GORILLA . . . HELP . . . HELP . . . PLEASE!!!!”

Then, he heared a still, small voice from behind him whispering, “Be Quiet . . Or We’ll All Lose our JOBS!”

Moral of the story: Just because you wear a monkey suit does not change who you really are inside. Be yourself.

7) Trucker in a Diner (Resentment):

A trucker was finishing up his breakfast at his usual truck stop, when three ersatz weekend bikers walked in, leather jackets and all, trying to act all macho. One of the guys shoved the trucker, and when he didn’t react, the other two joined in and started making fun of him. “What kind of a man are you, huh?” “He’s a pushover.” “Hey buddy, don’t mess with us.”

The trucker said nothing, then quietly paid his bill and walked out.

The three walked up to the waitress and said, “He’s not a man. He wouldn’t even put up a fight.”

The waitress looked out the window, responding to the three, “He may not be much of a man, and apparently he’s also not much of a driver because HE JUST BACKED HIS 18-WHEELER OVER THREE MOTORCYCLES!”

