

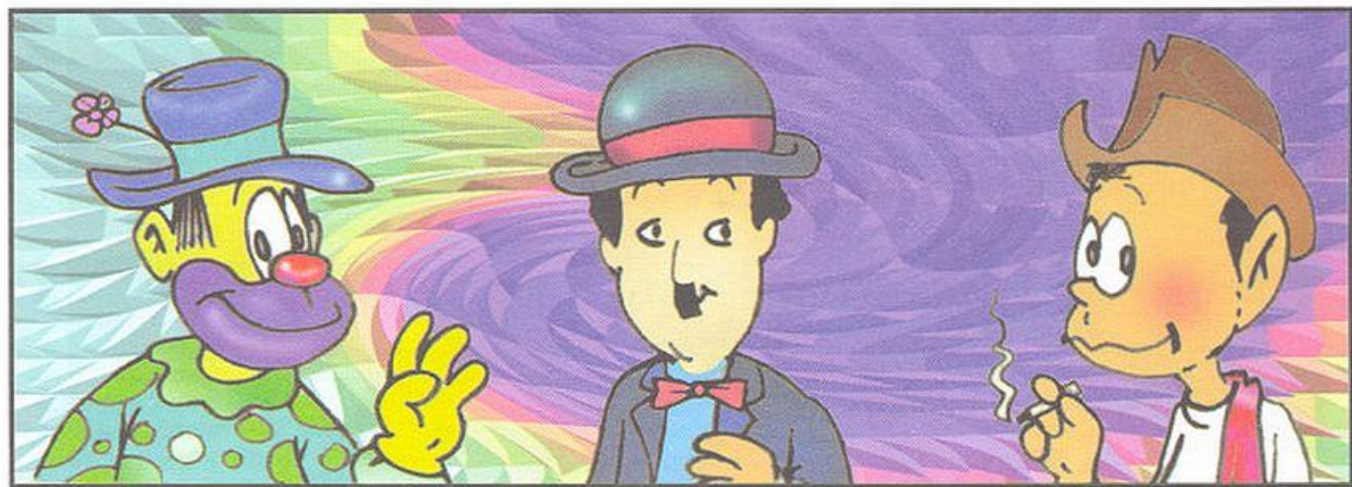
## HUMOR

22

Lesson  
twenty twoTwenty Second  
(22nd) Lesson

What do we mean when we say that most people enjoy the humor of a good joke?

Well, one answer to this question could be that "they are capable of laughing or smiling at how funny the joker is". In this sense, humor has always been associated with laughter and amusement. Though wit has often been linked to humor, they are by no means the same. During the 18th century in England, wit was understood as a form of intellectual quickness or mental alertness, which enabled a person to produce clever expressions and amusing associations of ideas or words. As such, wit was likely to occur as a part of the speech and manners of upper class people. Humor on the other hand, was more "earthy" and some even considered it "low class." But, indeed, the prevalent tendency was to vindicate it: if humor was not found in the well-bred, it was because they had learned to repress their feelings and adapt their manners to a rigid mold of decorum. Among the members of the lower social classes, where passion and humor flourished, nature appeared in all its charming, unsophisticated diversities.



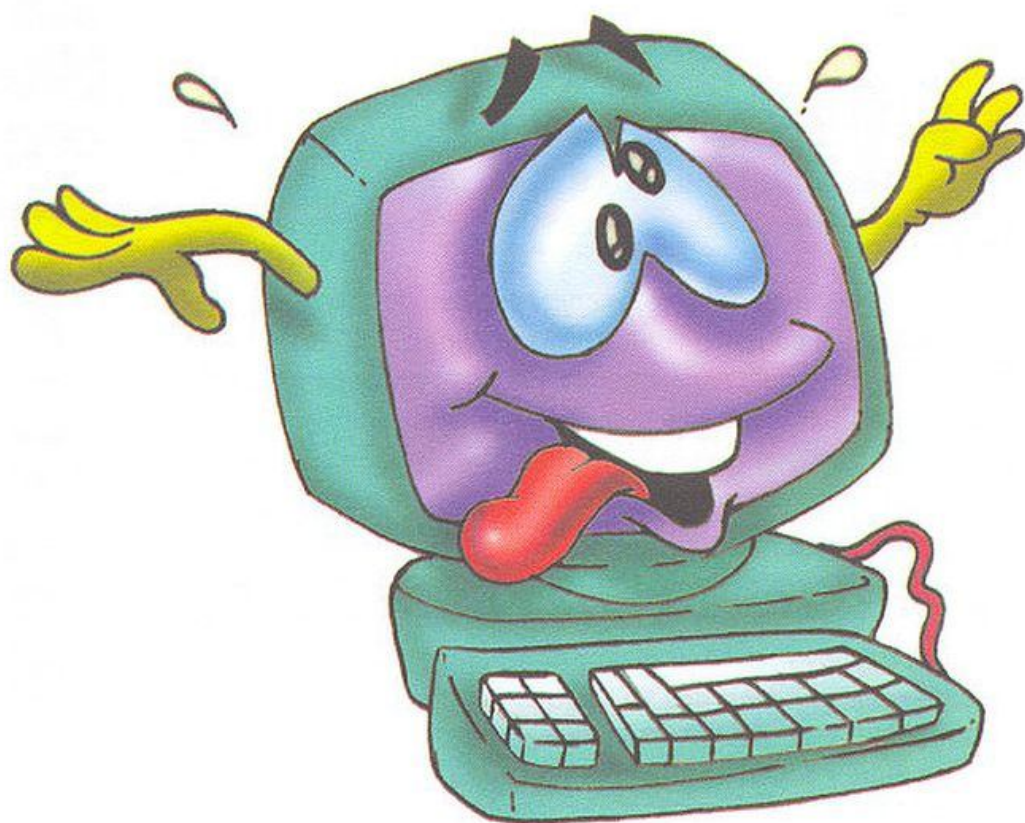
In the 19th century, humor was established as the highest and richest form of comedy. As such, the word came to be employed as a general term, as it usually is today, to denote anything comic, or anything that makes us laugh. By obvious extension of the meaning, a "humorist" is now someone consciously skilled in comic artistry. Humor is applied also to the ability to perceive or appreciate comedy.

In 1973 William Davis, director of the British magazine PUNCH, said that, "humor" is the ability to recognize that which is a signal of pretension, pomposity, absurdity, but it can also be something very cruel: massacres, mutilations, torment and torture have occasionally been considered as the object of humor. Then he added that comic magazines, such as PUNCH, have always been concerned with politics because humor, if properly used, is a more powerful weapon than anger. Of course, in this case he was referring to the variety of humor known as satire, which need not be funny or amusing, in the sense that a joke or a comedy is.

Let's not forget that a little humor (or better yet a lot) will make our lives happier.







■ ANSWER:



1. What has humor always been associated with?

2. Where and when did humor originate?

3. How was wit understood?

4. What are the differences between wit and humor?

5. What does the word humor mean nowadays?

6. What is a "humorist"?

7. Who is William Davis?

8. What did he say about comic magazines such as "Punch"?





■ GIVE YOUR OWN ANSWER:



1. Did you laugh or smile when you read the cartoons below? Why? Why not?

2. What sort of things make you laugh?

3. Do children and adults laugh at the same things? Give examples.

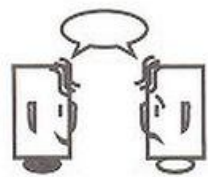
4. Do you think these cartoons are appropriate for all ages? Explain.

5. In your opinion, who is the best cartoonist in our country?





## PART III



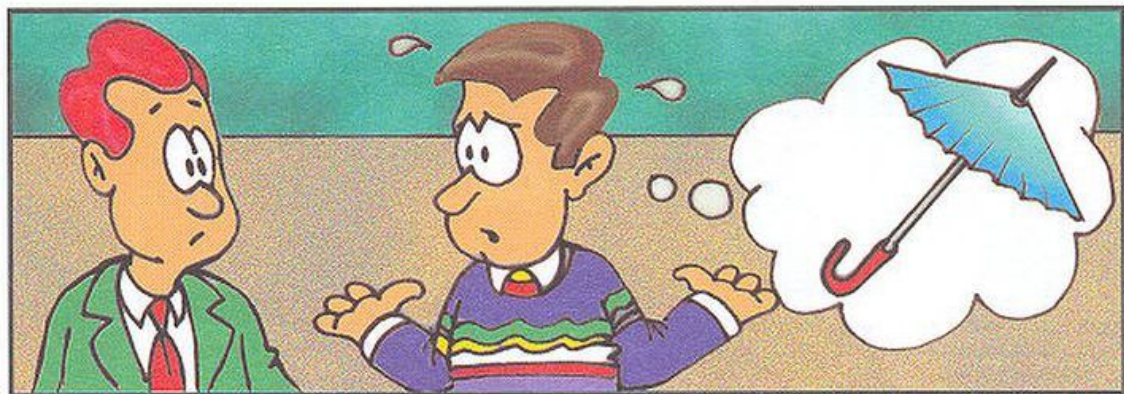
# FUNCTION: APOLOGIZING

## APOLOGY

- Sorry. I didn't mean to bump into you.
- I'm sorry for ringing the bell three times last night. I didn't know if you were in.
- So sorry for not calling you.
- Please forgive me for forgetting your birthday.

## RESPONSE

- That's O.K.
- It doesn't matter.
- It's all right.
- Don't let it worry you.



You borrowed an umbrella from your friend and you lost it.

■ WRITE A DIALOGUE APOLOGIZING TO YOUR FRIEND.

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# vocabulary

■ WRITE SENTENCES IN THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE  
FOR THE FOLLOWING VERBS:

**LINK, ALERT, REPRESS, FLOURISH, APPEAR,**  
**PERCEIVE, TORMENT, ANGER, AMUSE, APPROACH**

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