



How to...

THAT'S WILD!

Researchers have found that more than 65 animal species—including seals, cows, and dogs—have their own form of laughter.



Try stand-up comedy

Gain confidence and make your friends and family laugh with this fun hobby.

Stand-up is a type of comedy where someone stands before a live audience and performs a series of jokes. Young comedians—like you—can create a stand-up comedy act to perform in front of family and friends or in a school or community talent show. Here's how to get started.

Watch and learn

A good first step is watching other comedians perform. Ask an adult to help you find some kid-friendly stand-up comedians on YouTube or streaming services like Netflix. A few to check out might include Nate Bargatze, Jim Gaffigan, and Anjelah Johnson. Pay attention to what kinds of jokes work well with the audience.

Write your material

Many comedians choose to talk about their personal experience, or make funny observations about familiar topics, like sports or movies. Think about who your audience will be and what is relatable to them. For example, your friends would probably understand humor about school, but your grandparents may not. When you have an idea for a joke, write it down. It should have a beginning that hooks the

listener. Then you can set up any characters or other information people need to understand the joke. Finish with the punch line, which is often the surprise twist that makes people laugh.

Pull everything together

Once you have several jokes written, you can put them together into a complete stand-up routine, called a "set." As a beginner, aim for a few minutes. Open with a strong joke that you feel confident will get your audience laughing. Between jokes, which in comedy are also known as "bits," you can include transitions that help link one story or bit to the next. Conclude with a "closer," one final strong joke that will leave your audience laughing.

Practice your routine

Once you have your set, it's time to practice performing the material. Rehearse in front of a mirror or record yourself and make any small changes. Next, do it in front of a few trusted friends or family members. Then it's time to perform! A family party or school talent show can be a good place to start. Whatever the location, take a few deep breaths before you go onstage—and have fun!



Rehearse your set first.

3 types of comedy



In addition to stand-up, there are many other forms of comedy. Here are a few more.

Improv The word "improv" is short for "improvised comedy," which means performing without a script. Lines are made up onstage.

Sketch In this style of comedy, two or more people perform a funny, scripted scene together. A group of sketch comedians is called a troupe.

Mockumentary This is a fictional story that is presented in the style of a documentary show or film. A mockumentary typically includes funny fake events and interviews.