

Session Guide: Creating Jokes for Children

Session Outline

Description

This session aims to analyse the structure and elements of a type of jokes, normally written for children, but which could have high comedy value for adults as well. The session starts with a series of such jokes shared by the teacher with the learners, followed by an analysis of their structure, components and characteristics. Learners will then work in teams to write their own jokes following their findings and conclusions, and share them with the rest of the group to select the best 3 jokes.

Session Objectives

The objectives of this session are to:

- Analyse a type of children’s jokes.
- Understand the basic structure of said type of jokes.
- Be able to recognise patterns in said jokes and use them to write their own jokes.
- Work collaboratively and assess each other’s work from defined parameters.
- Develop creativity and writing skills.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the session learners will have:

- Learned, studied and analysed a type of children’s jokes.
- Identified the key characteristics of this type of writing.
- Write their own jokes following these characteristics.
- Selected the best three jokes from the group considering defined parameters: quality, comedy and accuracy of structure.

Areas involved

- Language
 - Language games



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- Oral Literature

Activity: Some Silly Children Jokes

Objectives

To understand a possible structure of a type of children's jokes.

Expected Outcomes

- Learners will have been told a number of silly children jokes.
- Learners will have reflected on possible common structures of features of said jokes.

Teaching Instructions

Tell the learners that this session is all about jokes, particularly about silly jokes for children. Tell the following jokes to the group (selected from Redtri.com), one at a time, asking the question first, waiting a moment for learners to imagine the answer and then give the answer. If necessary ask volunteer learners to explain individual jokes to the rest.

- What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree!
- Where would you find an elephant? The same place you lost her!
- What's worse than finding a worm in your apple? Finding half a worm.
- What did the banana say to the dog? Nothing. Bananas can't talk.
- Why did the kid bring a ladder to school? Because she wanted to go to high school.
- Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use a honeycomb.
- What do you get when you cross an elephant with a fish? Swimming trunks.
- What did zero say to eight? Nice belt!
- What do you call a fish without an eye? A fsh.
- What do you get if you cross a pie and a snake? A pie-thon.
- Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school? Because her students were so bright.
- What do you call bears with no ears? B.
- Why do scissors always win a race? Because they take a shortcut!
- It took 10 workers 10 days to build a bridge. How long would it take 5 workers to build the same bridge? No time, it's already built!
- What is brown and sticky? A stick.
- Why did the chicken go to the hospital? Because it needed some treatment!
- What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between us, something smells!
- When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look? Because when you find it, you stop looking.
- What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses? A coconut on vacation.



- What kind of water cannot freeze? Hot water.

Split the group into teams of 4 or 5. Teams should think about what the jokes have in common, what their general structure is, whether there are any similarities or differences between some of them, if there are any language techniques used to generate comedy in some of them. After some time, lead a discussion to collect each team's conclusions.

Suggested Guidelines

- Try to make this activity as fun as possible. Take your time with the jokes, repeat them if needed.
- Learners might not remember all the jokes so if possible provide them the list of jokes when they are carrying out their analysis.

Student Instructions

Read the following jokes for children:

- What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree!
- Where would you find an elephant? The same place you lost her!
- What's worse than finding a worm in your apple? Finding half a worm.
- What did the banana say to the dog? Nothing. Bananas can't talk.
- Why did the kid bring a ladder to school? Because she wanted to go to high school.
- Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use a honeycomb.
- What do you get when you cross an elephant with a fish? Swimming trunks.
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- What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between us, something smells!
- When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look? Because when you find it, you stop looking.
- What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses? A coconut on vacation.
- What kind of water cannot freeze? Hot water.



Can you find anything in common between the jokes? What is their general structure? Are there any similarities or differences between some of them? Are there any language techniques used to generate comedy in some of them?

Activity: Writing New Jokes

Objectives

- To be able to apply the concepts and ideas discovered to create new jokes.
- To learn how to manipulate language to create humour.

Expected Outcomes

Learners will have worked in groups to create a number of new jokes.

Teaching Instructions

Split the group into new teams of 3 or 4. Teams should use the conclusions from the previous discussion to write their own new jokes. They should follow the same question and answer structure, where the answers are surprising, nonsensical, a play on words, something obvious, or any other punchline that can create comedy.

Suggested Guidelines

- Bad jokes sometimes can be considered the best jokes! Encourage learners to be silly, imaginative and creative. If a joke doesn't work is not a problem, it's better to try something out and fail than not to try at all!

Student Instructions

Following your conclusions from the previous activity, try writing your own jokes. They should follow the same question and answer structure, where the answers are surprising, nonsensical, a play on words, something obvious, or any other punchline that can create comedy.

Write at least 3 new jokes.



Activity: Sharing their Jokes

Objectives

- To confidently share work produced.
- To take pride in their work regardless of possible quality.

Expected Outcomes

- Learners will have shared their jokes with the rest of the group.
- Learners will have selected the best joke in each team.

Teaching Instructions

Each team should take it in turns to share a joke. After all teams have shared their jokes, the top three jokes should be selected by the whole group. The decision should be based on the quality of the joke, on whether it follows the identified structure and on its comedy value.

Student Instructions

Find someone to tell your jokes to and ask them to rate them on how funny they are. If possible, children are the best audience for this!

