

# That's funny

## Speaking and vocabulary

### 1 Look at the photos and answer the questions.

- Do you know either of these comedians?
- Have you ever seen them on TV?
- Which other famous comedians can you think of?

### 2 Match the contrasting phrases with their definitions.

- a person telling a joke / a person getting a joke
- a stand-up comedian / a sitcom
- to find something funny / to have fun
- verbal humour / visual humour
- to make someone laugh / to have the last laugh
- to be so amused that you laugh / to enjoy yourself, generally
- to cause another person to laugh / what you have when you've finally been successful or won an argument
- someone who stands up on a stage, making the audience laugh / a funny TV series with the same characters every week
- someone who tells a funny story / someone who laughs because he/she understands it
- something that is funny because of the words / something that is funny because of what you see



## Listening

### 3 Listen to four conversations answering the question 'What's funny?' Look at the table below and tick (✓) the things that make these people laugh. Put a cross (X) for the things they don't find funny.

person	physical humour	people telling jokes	people making mistakes	films/ TV	irony	comedians imitating famous people	cartoons
Aranda (UK)							
Jobany (USA)							
Pablo (Argentina)							
Joane (France)							

## Language focus

### 4 Look at these expressions from Exercise 3 and write them in the table according to their function.

Absolutely!	I suppose ...
Do you really think so?	I think ...
Exactly!	I'd go along with that.
For me ...	I'd have to agree with you.
From my point of view, ...	I'm not sure about that.
How about you?	In my view, ...
I disagree.	Personally, ...
I know what you mean.	Right.
I reckon ...	What about ...?
I see what you mean.	What do you think of ...?

Agreeing	Disagreeing
I know what you mean.	
Giving an opinion	Asking for an opinion

### 5 Mark where the stress falls in each phrase, then listen to check.

Example: absolutely



## Practice

### 6 Complete these dialogues using phrases from Exercise 4.

Example: A: I think Mr Bean is the best comedian ever.  
 B: I'm not sure about that.

- A: Laughter or crying is what a human being does when there's nothing else he can do.  
 B: I'd go \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: Comedy is medicine.  
 B: I know \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: What \_\_\_\_\_ Woody Allen's films?  
 B: In \_\_\_\_\_, they're very funny.  
 A: Do you \_\_\_\_\_ so?  
 B: \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: From my \_\_\_\_\_, it's not the joke that's funny. It's the way you tell it. How \_\_\_\_\_?  
 B: \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: I \_\_\_\_\_ comedy is a funny way of being serious. What \_\_\_\_\_?  
 B: I'd \_\_\_\_\_ agree \_\_\_\_\_.

### 7 Listen to check, paying attention to the intonation. In pairs, take turns to read the dialogues aloud.

## Get talking

### 8 In groups, discuss what type of humour you like. Look at the photos for ideas.



## Language to go

- A: In my view, clowns are very funny.  
 B: I'd go along with that.