

joke**1. [dʒəʊk] n****1. анекдот, шутка, острота, смешной случай**

in joke - в шутку, шутя

current [dirty] joke - злободневные [непристойные] анекдоты

practical joke - шутка, розыгрыш

the best of the joke - соль /смысл/ остроты/шутки/

to see the joke - понять соль /смысл/ остроты/анекдота/

to make a joke about smb., smth. - подшутить над кем-л., чем-л.

to turn smth. into a joke, to make a joke of smth. - обернуть что-л. в шутку, свести что-л. к шутке

to cut /to crack/ a joke about smb. - отпустить шутку на чей-л. счёт

to put the joke on smb. - **амер.** подшутить над кем-л., пройтись на чей-л. счёт

he can't take a joke - он не понимает шуток

the joke is on him - это он в дураках остался

2. объект шуток, посмешище

standing joke - неистощимый объект для шуток

he is the joke of the town - над ним весь город смеётся

3. 1) шуточное дело, пустяк

no joke - не шутка, дело серьёзное

the loss was no joke - убытки были нешуточные

this goes beyond a joke - это уже не смешно; это становится серьёзным

2) работа, не требующая усилий; ≅ раз плюнуть

that exam was a joke - сдать такой экзамен было легче лёгкого

2. [dʒəʊk] v**1. шутить; острить**

he is always joking - он вечно шутит

joking apart - шутки в сторону

2. подшучивать (над кем-л.), дразнить (кого-л.)**joke**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

joke [joke jokes joked joking] **noun, verb** *BrE* [dʒəʊk] [ⓘ] *NAmE* [dʒoʊk] [ⓘ]**noun****1. something that you say or do to make people laugh, for example a funny story that you tell**

- I can't **tell jokes** .
- She's always **cracking jokes** .
- They often **make jokes** at each other's expense.
- I didn't **get the joke** (= understand it) .
- I wish he wouldn't tell **dirty jokes** (= about sex) .
- I only did it **as a joke** (= it was not meant seriously) .

see also ↑in-joke, ↑practical joke**2. singular (informal) a person, thing or situation that is ridiculous or annoying and cannot be taken seriously**

- This latest pay offer is a joke.

see also ↑jocularWord Origin:late 17th cent. (originally slang): perhaps from Latin **jocus** 'jest, wordplay' .Culture:**humour**

A **sense of humour** (*AmE* **humor**), an ability to see the **funny side of life**, is considered essential by most British and American people. Everyone needs to be able to **laugh at themselves** sometimes, and to recognize that the situation they are in may look funny to others. It is considered a serious criticism of somebody to say that they have no sense of humour.

Some people have a **dry** sense of humour, and can **keep a straight face** (= not smile) and let their voice sound as though they are being serious when they are joking. Other people are said to be **witty** (= show a very clever type of humour). A person's sense of humour is influenced by many things, including family and social background and age.

British and American humour on stage have some important differences, although the fact that some **comedy** television programmes are popular in both countries shows that there is some common ground. American **sitcoms** (= shows in which the humour comes from situations that the characters get into) such as ↑**Frasier**, ↑**Friends** and ↑**Seinfeld** are as popular in Britain as Britain's own ↑**Vicar of Dibley** and ↑**Office**. Sitcoms often have a **laugh track** (= a recording of people laughing) so that the audience at home will laugh in the right places. In many sitcoms gentle fun is made of ordinary life without the risk of causing anyone serious offence.

American stage humour is more direct than British comedy. In the American series **Cheers**, for instance, the humour comes from characters like Coach and Woody being more stupid than any real person could possibly be. But in the British comedy ↑**Fawlty Towers** Basil Fawlty's funny characteristics are exaggerated versions of those found in the type of Englishman he represents.

Slapstick comedy, which is based on people falling over, bumping into each other, etc. is now less popular in Britain.

British comedy makes frequent use of **irony**, humour which depends on a writer or performer suggesting the opposite of what is actually expressed. Many novels, films, stage plays, etc. use irony, even when discussing serious subjects such as death.

Popular humour may sometimes rely on **double entendre** (= using a phrase that can be understood in two ways, one of which is usually sexual) or on **innuendo** (= making an indirect suggestion of something rude). These were both used a lot in the popular

series of **Carry On** films that began in the 1960s.

Satire (= making people or institutions appear ridiculous to show how foolish or bad they are) is an important element of popular British political comedy programmes such as ↑**Yes, Minister** and **Spitting Image**. One of the most successful British comedy series, which also became popular in the US, was ↑**Monty Python's Flying Circus**. It had a **zany** (= odd and silly) and **satirical** humour which appealed especially to young people.

Comic strips and **cartoons**, whether printed in newspapers, shown on television or the Internet or made into films, are popular in both the US and Britain. The most famous include ↑**Peanuts**, ↑**Tom and Jerry** and ↑**Simpsons**.

Stand-up comedians like Bill Cosby and Jerry Seinfeld in the US and in Britain Peter Kay, Eddie Izzard and Jo Brand, perform on television or in clubs, telling **gags** (= jokes) and funny stories which end with a **punch line**, the part where the audience is supposed to laugh. Many comedians **tell jokes** that are funny because of some racial or sexual innuendo, and this may be considered unacceptable for family audiences. In Britain, common targets of comedians include mothers-in-law, foreigners and people from particular parts of Britain, especially Scotsmen (who are supposed to hate spending money) and Irishmen (who are supposed to be stupid). Many people find such jokes offensive, and the new generation of comedians has avoided making fun of people's race. Another form of comedy is for people from minority groups to make fun of their own customs and attitudes. Many people tell jokes at school, at home and at the office. People may start a speech with a joke or funny story to help **break the ice** (= make people feel more relaxed).

Children tell jokes that involve a play on words, such as ↑**knock-knock jokes** or 'What do you call...' jokes e.g. 'What do you call a man with a seagull on his head?' 'Cliff'.

Adults sometimes tell what in the US are called **Polish jokes** because they are about a particular national or racial group. There are also jokes about blondes (= women with fair hair) being stupid, and lawyers having bad characters. For instance, 'Why do they do lab experiments on lawyers?' 'Because there are some things that even a rat won't do.' On the whole this type of humour is considered dated and in bad taste. **Light bulb jokes** make fun of the worst characteristic of any group of people, by suggesting mistakes they would make in trying to change a light bulb: 'How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?' - 'Just one, but it has to really want to change.'

Practical jokes involve tricking people, and are not usually very popular, but on ↑**April Fool's Day** (1 April) people traditionally play practical jokes on each other. Newspapers often include a story that is not true hoping that some readers will believe it and then feel silly.

Thesaurus:

joke noun C

• She's always cracking jokes.

quip • • **prank** • • **pun** • |informal **gag** • • **wisecrack** • • **one-liner** •

a joke/quip/gag/wisecrack **about** sb/sth

make a joke/quip/pun/wisecrack

do sth as a joke/prank

tell/crack a joke/gag

Example Bank:

- Have you heard the joke about the elephant and the mouse?
- He told us the ending, completely spoiling the joke.
- He treated his exams as a huge joke.
- He's always playing jokes on people.
- He's excellent at telling jokes.
- His brothers were always playing practical jokes.
- I thought I'd play a trick on them, but in the end the joke was on me.
- It was only said as a joke.
- It's all just a huge joke to you, isn't it?
- She didn't seem to find my jokes amusing.
- She doesn't like jokes about her height.
- She likes to have a joke with her employees.
- That's an old joke— I've heard it lots of times.
- The audience wasn't very responsive and the jokes fell flat.
- The show features a running joke about a nosy dog.
- The trouble is she can't take a joke.
- They kept telling inside jokes about people I didn't know.
- We all fell about laughing, but he didn't get the joke.
- We tried to make a joke of our situation, but it wasn't really funny.
- He's always been good at telling jokes.
- I can't tell jokes.
- I didn't get the joke.
- I wish he wouldn't tell dirty jokes.
- She's always cracking jokes.
- They often make jokes at each other's expense.

Idioms: beyond a joke ▪ ↑joke's on somebody ▪ ↑joking apart ▪ ↑make a joke of something ▪ ↑no joke ▪ ↑take a joke ▪ ↑you must be joking ▪ ↑you're joking

verb ~ (with sb) (about sth)

1. intransitive, transitive to say sth to make people laugh; to tell a funny story

- She was laughing and joking with the children.

- ~ **about sth** They often joked about all the things that could go wrong.
 - **+ speech** 'I cooked it myself, so be careful!' he joked.
2. **intransitive, transitive** to say sth that is not true because you think it is funny
- I didn't mean that— I was **only joking** .
 - ~ **that...** She joked that she only loved him for his money.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	joke
	BrE /dʒəʊk/
	NAmE /dʒoʊk/
he / she /it	jokes
	BrE /dʒəʊks/
	NAmE /dʒoʊks/
past simple, past participle	joked
	BrE /dʒəʊkt/
	NAmE /dʒoʊkt/
-ing form	joking
	BrE /dʒəʊkɪŋ/
	NAmE /dʒoʊkɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late 17th cent. (originally slang): perhaps from Latin **jocus** 'jest, wordplay' .

Thesaurus:

joke verb I

- Don't worry— I was only joking.

quip • |informal **kid** • • **wisecrack** • |especially BrE, informal **have sb on** • |formal humorous **jest** •

joke/kid/jest/have sb on **about** sth

I'm, he's, etc. **only/just** joking/kidding/having you on.

You must be joking/kidding!

Joke or kid? Both words are often used in the progressive tenses, meaning to say sth that is not true. **Kid** is used more in spoken and American English.

Example Bank:

- Don't worry, I'm only joking!
- Everyone just joked around and enjoyed themselves.
- She was only half joking about being president one day.
- She's always joking with her friends.
- They laughed and joked as they walked along.
- We joked about the amount of equipment we had to carry.
- I didn't mean that— I was only joking.
- She's going out with Dan? You're joking!

joke

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

1. **joke**¹ **S2 W3** /dʒəʊk \$ dʒoʊk/ **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ **noun** [countable]

[**Word Family**: **noun**: †joke, †joker, †jokiness, †jocularity; **adverb**: †jokingly, †jokily, †jocularly; **adjective**: †jokey, †jocular; **verb**: †joke]

[**Date**: 1600-1700; **Language**: Latin; **Origin**: jocus]

1. something that you say or do to make people laugh, especially a funny story or trick

joke about

- ˈ a joke about absent-minded professors
- ˈ I couldn't go out with someone for a joke, could you?

2. **be a joke** *informal* to be completely useless, stupid, or unreasonable:

- ˈ The whole meeting was a joke.

3. **go/get/be beyond a joke** a situation that has got beyond a joke has become serious and worrying:

- ˈ This rain's getting beyond a joke – let's go inside.

4. **something is no joke** used to emphasize that a situation is serious or that someone really means what they say:

- ˈ The risk he's taking is no joke.
- ˈ It's no joke bringing up a child on your own.

5. **somebody can take a joke** used to say that someone is able to laugh at jokes about themselves:

- ˈ Your problem is you just can't take a joke.

6. **make a joke (out) of something** to treat something serious as if it was intended to be funny:

- ˈ He could not bring himself to apologise. Instead, he tried to make a joke of it.

7. **sb's idea of a joke** *spoken* a situation that someone else thinks is funny but you do not:

- ˈ Look, if this is your idea of a joke, I don't find it at all funny.

8. **the joke's on somebody** used to say that something has happened to make someone seem stupid, especially when they were trying to make other people seem stupid

⇒ †in-joke, †practical joke, ⇒ **standing joke** at †standing¹(3)

• • •

COLLOCATIONS

verbs

- **tell a joke** (=repeat a funny story) He was always telling jokes and making people laugh.
- **make a joke** (also **crack a joke**) (=say something intended to be funny) He was cracking jokes and seemed relaxed and happy.
- **get a joke** (=understand a joke and find it funny) She never gets my jokes.
- **laugh at sb's jokes** A few people laughed at his jokes, but some didn't find them funny.
- **play a joke on somebody** (=trick someone to make people laugh) John's always playing jokes on his brothers.

adjectives

- **a good/funny joke** I heard a really good joke the other day.
- **a bad/terrible joke** (=not funny) Dad was known for his bad jokes.
- **a cruel/sick joke** (=very unkind) When I heard he had cancer, at first I thought it was some kind of sick joke.
- **an old joke** It reminded me of the old joke about the chicken crossing the road.
- **a dirty joke** (=about sex) A bunch of boys were telling dirty jokes.
- **a practical joke** (=that involves tricking someone) What the workers think is a practical joke, management might regard as sabotage.
- **an inside/a private joke** (=that only a few people who are involved in something will understand) After I'd worked there a while, I started to understand some of the inside jokes.
- **a running joke** (=in which people always laugh when the same situation happens, or when someone says something) It's a running joke in our house that my husband can never find his keys.

phrases

- **a joke falls flat** (=people don't find a joke funny) His practical jokes usually fell flat.
- **be the butt of a joke** (=be the person a joke is made about, so that people laugh at you) Somehow he'd become the butt of all his classmates' jokes.

COMMON ERRORS

- ▶ Do not say 'say a joke'. Say **tell a joke**.

...

THESAURUS

- **joke** a funny story that you tell people to make them laugh: We all sat around telling jokes. | Have you heard the joke about the man who found a frog in his soup?
- **funny story** a short story that someone tells to make people laugh: He was one of those guys who are good at telling funny stories at dinner parties.
- **gag** a short joke, especially one told by a professional entertainer: He's a great comedian, with plenty of good gags.
- **one-liner** a very short joke or funny remark: There are some memorable one-liners in the film.
- **wisecrack** a funny remark or reply, especially one that is said in a very quick and clever way: It's a comic masterpiece, packed with classic wisecracks.
- **pun** (also **play on words**) a joke made by mixing up two different meanings of the same word, or two words with the same sound: a pun on the words 'bear' and 'bare' | The title of the book is a witty play on words. | Shakespeare used a lot of puns for comic effect.
- **quip** *written* something funny and clever that someone says: He made some friendly quip about hair loss, and everyone laughed.

II. joke² S3 BrE⁺ AmE⁺ verb [intransitive]

[Word Family: noun: ↑joke, ↑joker, ↑jokiness, ↑jocularly; adverb: ↑jokingly, ↑jokily, ↑jocularly; adjective: ↑jokey, ↑jocular; verb: ↑joke]

1. to say things that are intended to be funny and that you do not really mean

joke about

" I never joke about money.

joke with

" As we left the hospital, he joked with the staff.

joke that

" His father joked that his son was trying to put him out of business.

" Calm down, Jo, I was only joking.

2. **you're joking/you must be joking** (also **you've got to be joking**) *spoken* used to tell someone that what they are suggesting is so strange or silly that you cannot believe that they are serious:

" 'Tell him.' 'You must be joking – he'd never believe me.'

3. **joking apart/aside** *British English* used before you say something serious after you have been joking

—**jokingly** *adverb*

joke

Freakuency Pack

12500 **2689**^{MCW}

15000 **1697**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** JOKE²³¹⁴⁷

joke 11307

jokes 6475

joked 1905

joking 2246

joker 379

jokers 101

jokingly 734

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

7128 **3934**¹⁰²²⁸ *nn1*
614 **27629**⁶⁴⁰ *vvi*
405 **35176**⁴²¹ *vv0*
10 **236387**¹² *nnu*
6 **342011**⁶ *jj*
