

comedy[ˈkɒmədi] *n*

1. 1) комедия

musical comedy - музыкальная комедия; мюзикл; оперетта

comedy of cape /of cloak/ and sword - комедия «плаща и шпаги»

comedy of manners /of humours/ - комедия нравов

comedy of character - комедия характеров

comedy of intrigue - остросюжетная комедия положений

comedy of situations - комедия положений

2) представление комедии на сцене

2. забавное событие; комичный случай, комедия, смех

3. притворство

to cut the comedy - перестать/прекратить/ ломать комедию /притворяться/

comedy

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

com·edy [comedy comedies] *BrE* [ˈkɒmədi] ^ˈ *NAmE* [ˈkɑːmədi] ^ˈ noun (pl.**com·edies**)**1. countable, uncountable** a play or film/movie that is intended to be funny, usually with a happy ending; plays and films/movies of this type

• a romantic comedy

compare ↑tragedy

• slapstick comedy

see also ↑black ^{adj.} (⁹), ↑situation comedy**2. uncountable** an amusing aspect of sth**Syn:** ↑humour

• He didn't appreciate the comedy of the situation.

Word Origin:late Middle English (as a genre of drama, also denoting a narrative poem with a happy ending, as in Dante's Divine Comedy): from Old French **comédie**, via Latin from Greek **kōmōidia**, from **kōmōidos** 'comic poet', from **kōmos** 'revel' + **aoidos** 'singer'.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:

comedy noun C, U

1.

• a romantic comedy starring Tom Hanks

farce • **play** • **drama** • **sketch** •

a comedy/farce/play/drama/sketch **by** sb

a **television/radio/Shakespearean** comedy/play/drama

write a comedy/farce/play/drama/sketch

2. U

• He didn't see the comedy of the situation.

funny side • |BrE **humour** • |AmE **humor** •

gentle/wry/dry/deadpan/black comedy/humour

see/appreciate the comedy/funny side/humour of sth

Example Bank:

- Does he play comedy?
- The case quickly became a comedy of errors.
- The show contains some wonderful slapstick comedy.
- a popular romantic comedy
- He didn't appreciate the comedy of the situation.
- It's a romantic comedy starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.
- The visual comedy of this scene is obvious.
- They spent hours watching comedy on television.

comedy

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

com e d y /'kɒmədi, 'kɒmɪdi \$ 'kɑː-BrE " AmE " noun (plural **comedies**)

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: French; Origin: comédie, from Latin, from Greek komoidia, from komos 'having fun, partying' + aeidein 'to sing']

1. [uncountable] entertainment that is intended to make people laugh

comedy writer/series/show/actor etc

" a career in **stand-up comedy** (=telling jokes in front of people as a job)

2. [countable] a play, film, or television programme that is intended to make people laugh:

a highly successful TV comedy

3. [uncountable] the quality in something such as a book or play that makes people laugh **SYN** **humour** ⇒ **tragedy**:

Can't you see the comedy of the situation?

⇒ ↑**black comedy**, ↑**situation comedy**

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 1)

■ **comedy + NOUN**

- a **comedy series** (=a regular TV programme about the same characters) I used to like the comedy series 'Friends'.
- a **comedy show** (=a performance) She has her own comedy show on TV.
- a **comedy writer** He is best known as a comedy writer for radio and television.
- a **comedy actor/actress** He was voted the top TV comedy actor.
- a **comedy star** (=a very famous comedy actor or actress) The main role in the film is played by comedy star Whoopi Goldberg.
- a **comedy film** They were the most successful comedy films of all time.
- a **comedy routine** (=the jokes that form a comedy show) He always has a brilliant comedy routine.
- a **comedy duo** (=two people who perform together regularly) the legendary comedy duo Laurel and Hardy
- the **comedy circuit/scene** (=all the people, places etc involved in providing comedy) She became a major star on the international comedy circuit.

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + comedy**

- **stand-up comedy** (=performances with one person telling jokes alone) He developed a stand-up comedy act.
- **slapstick comedy** (=in which the performers do silly things like falling over, getting dirty etc) The tradition of slapstick comedy goes back to the early days of cinema.
- **high comedy** (=intelligent and with very funny conversations and situations) The director wanted actors who could play high comedy.

- **low comedy** (=about very silly situations etc) He's a popular actor who excels at low comedy.
- **light comedy** (=about subjects that are not very serious) He is clearly talented at light comedy.
- **black/dark comedy** (=about subjects that are usually sad or serious, especially death) The plot contains plenty of black comedy.
- **alternative comedy** (=that is different from traditional types of comedy) He's making a name for himself on the alternative comedy scene.

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

■ adjectives

- **a romantic comedy** 'Four weddings and a Funeral' is a well-known romantic comedy.
- **a black comedy** (=about serious subjects, especially death) There are several murders in this black comedy set in Florida.
- **a musical comedy** (=with music and singing) As far as musical comedies go, this is one of the most successful.
- **a sentimental comedy** (=about emotions such as love and sadness) The film is one of those tearful sentimental comedies.
- **a situation comedy** (=a regular comedy TV programme about the same characters) She starred in a situation comedy about a family with teenage kids, that ran for ten years.
- **a TV comedy** The actor played the character Baldrick in the TV comedy 'Blackadder'.

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THESAURUS

- **film** *especially British English, movie especially American English* a series of images that tell a story and are shown in a cinema or on television: What's your favourite movie? | It won the award for best foreign film. | a made-for-TV movie
- **motion picture** *formal (also picture)* a film – used especially by people who make films or by critics: a major Hollywood motion picture | Tell us about your latest picture.
- **blockbuster** *informal* a very successful film: Steven Spielberg's latest Hollywood blockbuster
- **flick** *informal* a film – a very informal use: an action flick
- **documentary** a film that gives detailed information and facts about a particular subject: a documentary on the rain forest
- **feature film** a film made to be shown in cinemas: The book was later made into a full-length feature film starring Sean Penn.
- **comedy** a film intended to make people laugh: Monroe appeared in a number of comedies.
- **romantic comedy** (also *romcom British English informal*) a film about two people who are in love, which is intended to make the people who watch it feel happy: 'Notting Hill' is a romantic comedy starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant.
- **thriller** an exciting film, especially about murder or serious crimes: 'The Birds' is a classic Hitchcock thriller.
- **film noir** a film that shows strong feelings of fear or evil and whose characters are often immoral, or these films in general: 'The Big Sleep' is a classic Hollywood film noir.
- **action film/movie** a film that has lots of fighting, explosions etc: Stallone's latest action movie
- **horror film/movie** a frightening film about ghosts, murders etc: She loves watching old horror movies.
- **western** a film with cowboys in it: John Wayne is famous for making westerns.
- **science fiction film/movie** (also *sci-fi film/movie informal*) a film about imaginary events in the future or in outer space: '2001' is probably the most famous sci-fi movie ever made.
- **gangster film/movie** a film about violent criminals
- **silent film/movie** an old film without any sound: The 1920s were the golden age of silent movies.
- **an independent film/movie** a film made by a small film company
- **animated film/movie/cartoon** a film with characters that are drawn or made using a computer: One of his first animated films was 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.
- **anime** /'æniːmeɪ, -mə/ a type of Japanese animated film, which often has a science fiction story: Miyazaki's anime film 'Spirited Away' became an international success. | an anime character
- **CGI** the use of computers to create characters and images in a film: The film uses CGI. | Disney's latest CGI movie
- **short** a short film, usually shown before a longer movie in the cinema: an animated short
- **trailer** a series of short scenes from a film or programme, shown in order to advertise it in a cinema, on television etc: We had to sit through all the trailers.

comedy

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