

# What's So Funny?

*full text on page 157 (cd track 29)*

## Introduction ❁

In many cases Americans laugh at exactly the same things people in other countries laugh at. Here are two American jokes which we hope you will find funny. If you don't understand the joke, you say "I don't get it." The final line of the joke which should make you laugh is called "the punch line."

## Vocabulary ❁

1. **tenant** - a person who is renting a house or apartment
2. **tuba** - a large musical instrument that you play by blowing into and that makes very loud, low sounds
3. **stomp** - to walk with heavy steps, to put your foot down very hard, especially if you're angry
4. **urgently** - very important and needing to be done immediately
5. **warning** - something that tells you that something bad, annoying, or dangerous might happen
6. **yell** - shout or say something very loudly
7. **yikes** - a meaningless word said when something frightens or shocks you



**Pair Dictation ❄**

*In the dictation on this page and the next, work in pairs and dictate to each other. Student A will have half of the jokes and will read their part to Student B who has the other half. Student A dictates and student B writes; then student B dictates and student A writes until each joke is finished. With your partner, correct the dictation and decide which joke you think is funnier.*

**❄ Student A ❄****Joke 1:**

"Those people upstairs \_\_\_\_\_," complained the tenant. "\_\_\_\_\_ they stomped and banged on the floor until midnight." "\_\_\_\_\_?" asked the landlord. "\_\_\_\_\_", \_\_\_\_\_." "Luckily, I was playing \_\_\_\_\_."

**Joke 2:**

As a senior citizen \_\_\_\_\_, his car phone rang. \_\_\_\_\_, he heard his wife's voice \_\_\_\_\_. "Herman, I just heard on the news that \_\_\_\_\_ on Route 280. I know you \_\_\_\_\_, so please be careful!" "\_\_\_\_\_" \_\_\_\_\_, "it's not just ONE car. \_\_\_\_\_!"

**Pair Dictation** ❄

*In the dictation on this page and page 89, work in pairs and dictate to each other. Student A will have half of the jokes and will read their part to Student B who has the other half. Student A dictates and student B writes; then student B dictates and student A writes until each joke is finished. With your partner, correct the dictation and decide which joke you think is funnier.*

**❄ Student B ❄****Joke 1:**

" \_\_\_\_\_ are very annoying," \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ . "Last night \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ." "Did they wake you?" \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 "No", replied the tenant. " \_\_\_\_\_ my tuba."

**Joke 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ was driving down the highway, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Answering, \_\_\_\_\_ urgently warning him.  
 " \_\_\_\_\_ there's a car going the wrong  
 way \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ usually take Route 280, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ !" "Yikes," yelled Herman, \_\_\_\_\_. It's hundreds of  
 them!"

**Discussion** ❄ *Discuss the following with a partner.*

1. Do you understand the two jokes?
2. Which joke do you prefer?

**Writing** ❄ *Find a funny joke. Turn it into a dictation. Make copies and read it to the class.*



# Complaining

## (Partial Dictation)

*dictation page 84 (cd track 29)*

1. The food at McDonald's isn't very good.
2. English grammar is illogical.
3. There are so many immigrants in the U.S.
4. It's been raining for six straight days.
5. American cars are gas guzzlers.
6. I have to pay a lot for medical insurance.
7. My parents are too strict.

# What's So Funny?

## (Pair dictation)

*dictation page 88 (cd track 29)*

**Joke 1:** "Those people upstairs are very annoying," complained the tenant. "Last night they stomped and banged on the floor until midnight." "Did they wake you?" asked the landlord. "No," replied the tenant. "Luckily, I was playing my tuba."

**Joke 2:** As a senior citizen was driving down the highway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him. "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Route 280. I know you usually take Route 280, so please be careful!" "Yikes," yelled Herman, "it's not just ONE car. It's hundreds of them!"