

## 10.2 Sense of humour

GOALS ■ Use *if* + other conjunction clauses ■ Rate performances

### Grammar & Listening *if* + other conjunction clauses

- 1a 10.2 ))) Listen to this joke, voted the funniest joke by a survey of several nationalities. Do you think it's funny?



- b Work with a partner. Student A, turn to page 130. Student B, turn to page 134. Read your joke and practise telling it to yourself. Then tell your partner the joke.
- c With your partner, put the three jokes in order according to how funny you think they are.
- 2a 10.3 ))) Listen to the first part of a radio programme about humour and write down which nationalities might prefer each of the jokes in exercise 1, according to the speaker.
- b Do you find different things funny from your friends or from your family? Tell a partner.
- 3 10.4 ))) Listen to the second part of the programme and complete the following statements with one word from the listening.
- The final line of a joke is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - To have a good sense of humour you also need to be pretty \_\_\_\_\_.
  - To get a joke you need to understand language and have good knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Children can't tell or understand jokes properly until they reach the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4a Use the hints in square brackets to complete each extract from the listening in exercises 2 and 3 with a conjunction from the box.

as soon as if in case unless until when

- \_\_\_\_\_ [condition] you joke about it, it doesn't make you as anxious, I suppose.
  - I'm very careful about telling jokes to people I don't know, \_\_\_\_\_ [because I might] I offend them.
  - ... there are quite a lot of jokes I don't tell \_\_\_\_\_ [except if] I know the people pretty well!
  - We usually laugh \_\_\_\_\_ [immediately after] we realize that we've been mentally going in the wrong direction.
  - ... \_\_\_\_\_ [each time] you tell a computer a joke, it won't laugh?
  - Even young children struggle with this \_\_\_\_\_ [up to the time] they get to about five.
- b 10.5 ))) Listen to the programme and check your answers to exercise 4a.
- c What is the difference in meaning between the following pairs of sentences? What do you notice about the verb forms in both clauses? Discuss with a partner.
- If you joke about it, it makes you less anxious.  
I will feel less anxious if I make a joke about it.
  - I'm very careful about telling jokes to people I don't know, in case I offend them.  
I won't tell you that joke, in case it offends you.





## 5 Complete the Grammar focus box with the words in the box.

conjunctions unless result clause future in case  
any

### GRAMMAR FOCUS conditional and conjunction clauses

- To talk about something which **always happens** as a <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of something else we usually use:  
*If + present tense, present tense.*  
*If you joke about it, it doesn't make you as anxious.*  
Note that present tense can mean <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ present tense, including present continuous and present perfect. We can also use present modal verbs in either <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
*If you have offended someone, you can always apologize.*  
*If I'm telling a joke and no one laughs, I go bright red.*
- Other <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ such as *unless, as soon as, when, in case* are used in a similar way, but with different meanings.
- To talk about **future possibilities** we usually use:  
*If + present/future*  
*If I make a joke about it, I won't feel as anxious.*  
Again, note that we can use **any** present tense in the *if*-clause and **any** <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ form (*going to, will, future continuous, future perfect*) in the other clause.  
*If you don't laugh at my joke, I'm going to cry.*
- Other conjunctions can also be used with a future meaning, but followed by a **present tense**.  
*I'm not going to watch the show <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it's funny.*  
*I'll start applauding **as soon as** you've finished your speech.*  
*I'll buy tickets now <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the show sells out.*  
*I'll probably be sitting near the front **when** you get there.*
- We can use *should* after *in case* to give the idea of 'by chance'.  
*I'll buy tickets now in case the show should sell out.*

→ Grammar Reference page 155

## 6 Complete the sentences using a different conjunction each time and the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- \_\_\_\_\_ they sell more tickets, the show \_\_\_\_\_ (be) cancelled.
- I'm going to leave my phone on vibrate \_\_\_\_\_ someone \_\_\_\_\_ (need) to contact me during the show.
- Ring me \_\_\_\_\_ the show \_\_\_\_\_ (finish).  
I'll be waiting to hear how it went.
- The show won't start \_\_\_\_\_ the lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go down).
- They won't be able to have the show outside \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain).
- It will be great to see the show \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (come) here on tour.

## Vocabulary & Speaking rating performances

## 7a Work with a partner. Decide if the adjectives in the box are positive or negative ways of describing something.

annoying childish comical distasteful hilarious  
irritating pointless predictable ridiculous tedious  
thought-provoking witty

## b Group the adjectives in exercise 7a into categories 1–5. Some words might belong in more than one category. What differences in meaning are there between the adjectives in each category?

1 might make you feel cross or upset	
2 funny or amusing	
3 boring or dull	
4 silly	
5 clever	

### PRONUNCIATION word stress – adjectives (2)

## 8a Underline the stressed syllable in the adjectives in exercise 7a.

## b 10.6 ))) Listen and check your answers.

9a **TASK** Think about a comedian, comedy actor or comedy series that you know quite well. It might be one you really like or one you really dislike. Prepare to tell your partner about him/her or the show. Use the following questions to help you.

- If it is funny, why is it funny? Is it witty, or is the humour more visual?
- If it isn't funny, why isn't it? Is it distasteful or just childish or predictable?
- Can you give an example of something which was or wasn't funny and explain why? Try to use some of the adjectives in exercise 7a.
- Is it popular in your country? If so, what kinds of people enjoy it?

## b Work with a partner. Tell your partner about it. If your partner has seen the person or show, he/she can comment, too.

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