

Twenty Ways to Be Funny

01 Push it further than it should go

"Rice is great if you're really hungry and want to eat two thousand of something."

— Mitch Hedberg

02 Say the opposite of what's expected

"I haven't slept for ten days, because that would be too long."

— Mitch Hedberg

03 Be more specific than you need to be

"Our primary living-room sofa looks like a buffalo that has been dead for some time."

— Dave Barry

04 Put two things together that don't belong

"Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster is a maniac?"

— George Carlin

05 Set up a pattern, then break it

"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific."

— Lily Tomlin

06 Shrink your reaction when the situation is big

"I used to sell furniture for a living. The trouble was, it was my own."

— Les Dawson

07 Blow up your reaction when the situation is small

"I bought a seven-dollar pen because I always lose pens and I got sick of not caring."

— Mitch Hedberg

08 Say what everyone's thinking but nobody's saying

"Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they really are."

— Will Ferrell

09 Misunderstand something on purpose

"My neighbour knocked on my wall, so I said: Go around! I cannot open the wall!"

— Mitch Hedberg

10 Build something up, then immediately deflate it

"They came... They saw... They did a bit of shopping."

— Morons from Outer Space

11 Call back to something from earlier

"I used to do drugs. I still do, but I used to, too."

— Mitch Hedberg

12 Apply the wrong format to the content

"I saw 50 Things To Do Before You Die. I'd have thought the obvious one was shout for help."

— Jimmy Carr

13 Take a metaphor literally

"An escalator can never break: it can only become stairs. Sorry for the convenience."

— Mitch Hedberg

14 Remove the filter people normally apply

"Everybody wants to save the Earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes."

— P.J. O'Rourke

15 Commit to a false premise and follow the logic

"If carrots got you drunk, rabbits would be messed up."

— Mitch Hedberg

16 Let the details do the work

"I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch."

— Gilda Radner

17 Compare two unrelated things that secretly match

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."

— Steve Martin

18 Answer a different question than the one asked

"Hey man, am I driving okay? ... I think we're parked, man."

— Cheech and Chong

19 Stack things that escalate

"I told my psychiatrist everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous. Everyone hasn't met me yet."

— Rodney Dangerfield

20 Describe yourself from the outside

"I have a lot of growing up to do. I realized that the other day inside my fort."

— Zach Galifianakis
