

# Titter in Training

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When training, the use of humour can either enhance your presentation, or hurt it. It all depends on how you use the humour. If used correctly, humour can be quite beneficial to your learners. Here are some ways that you can use humour to improve your presentation.

*"Humour can make learning stick, can engage your audience and build your credibility as a confident speaker."*

## **Only use what's relevant.**

Only use what's relevant. Telling a joke or using a prop for the sake of attempting to inject humour into your presentation may backfire if the joke or prop is perceived as entirely irrelevant to your subject. However, using humour through relevant anecdotes or stories can be effective in helping you make your point, and helping the audience remember your message.

## **Don't force it.**

Your audience will know if you are trying too hard to be funny. It is much better to be yourself and say what comes naturally. As long as your humour isn't negative or inappropriate, it should not be a problem if it fits the situation. One worthwhile way of getting a chuckle out of your audience is to use slightly self-effacing humour; people will feel that they can connect with you on a human level. Showing that you have a light-hearted side also makes people feel comfortable in the training context.

## **No jokes, please.**

Unless you are a talented joke teller, it would be best if you restricted joke telling to social settings. It is

too easy to mess up a punch line, or potentially insult someone, by telling a joke. Furthermore, using jokes you received via the internet can be dangerous, as you do not know if everyone else in that room also received it already!

## **Get to the point.**

Business humour is best when it is short and punchy. If the story drags on, your audience will forget where you started and won't care about the point by the time you get to it. Quips and puns are effective for inserting humour into your presentation.

## **Know your audience.**

Before attempting any comedy, make sure you understand the audience. This doesn't mean that you can't use any humour with some audiences; it means that what makes one group laugh may make another group groan or get up and walk out! Find out about issues your audience faces, and poke fun at those annoyances that stress people out. If done right, your humour can let them know that it's ok to laugh at the things that drive them crazy.

The use of humour can be the difference between the memorable presentation and the lacklustre talk. Humour can make learning stick, can engage your audience and build your credibility as a confident speaker. Remember, as long as your audience is laughing, they are listening! Good luck!

## **Links:**

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/adding-humor-to-training.html>

