

Catch Word #264 – In stitches

Episode description

Who doesn't like to have a good laugh? In this Catch Word episode, Kassy and Andrew teach you some useful expressions that help you to talk about comedy and things in your life that make you laugh a lot.

Catch Word is the Culips vocabulary series for intermediate and advanced English language learners that will help you improve your listening and speaking skills. At the same time, you'll be able to increase your vocabulary by learning some useful and important expressions that English speakers use in their everyday lives.

Fun fact

Most laughter is not about humor, but rather about relationships between people. We are 30 times more likely to laugh in a social situation than when we are alone (with no books, TV, or other gadgets around to make us laugh).

Expressions included in the study guide

- In stitches
- To crack [someone] up
- To overexert oneself
- To catch one's breath
- To take [something] to heart
- A real character



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello there, everyone. My name's Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hey guys, welcome back to Culips. You're listening to Catch Word, which is our series for intermediate and advanced English learners, where we teach you idioms or phrasal verbs or expressions that will help improve your English listening and speaking. And today, I'm joined by my trusty cohost, Kassy. Hello, Kassy.

Kassy: Hi, Andrew. And hi, listeners. So, everyone, we've got a great vocabulary lesson lined up for you today. The topic is how to talk about comedy and laughing. And Andrew and I will teach you two idiomatic expressions that are perfect to use when you're talking about funny people or funny things that make you laugh.

Andrew: Yes, that is right. And the two key expressions that we'll teach you in this episode everyone, are **to have you in stitches**. Or sometimes we say **to be in stitches**. Both are OK, both mean the same thing. So, **to have you in stitches**, the first expression, and the second expression is **to crack you up, to crack you up**. And I love laughing. I love funny things. I love comedy. So, I use these idioms all the time, when I'm describing funny people, and funny things. So, I think they're a great pair of expressions to add to your vocabulary, everyone, and we'll learn about them here in just a moment.

Kassy: Exactly. Before we get started with this lesson, I do want to let you guys know that there is a transcript and study guide for this episode available to all Culips Members. We've designed the practice exercises that are in the guide, specifically to teach you the important parts of this lesson that will help build your English fluency and help your English sound natural. To learn about all the details and to become a Culips Member and get the study guide, visit Culips.com.

Andrew: And of course, we want to say a huge thank you to all of the Culips Members out there who support what we do here and keep allowing us to make new episodes and English lessons for everyone each and every week. Of course, guys, we really, really do appreciate the support and we couldn't do it at all without you. But with that being said, I think it's time to jump in here and get started with our lesson for today. So, the first expression, as I mentioned earlier, is **in stitches, in stitches**. And we usually use it in a longer phrase. So, we could say "I'm **in stitches**." We could use it with *be* verb, we could

use it with **have me in stitches**. So, somebody can **have you in stitches**. Like Kassy, if you're really funny, and I'm laughing a lot. I could say "Oh, Kassy, you **had me in stitches**." We can use it like that, as well. But maybe we should start with breaking this down a little bit, Kassy, because some of our listeners might not know what a stitch is and how it relates to laughing, 'cause it is kind of a weird expression when I think about it. So, could you tell us what is a *stitch* or what are *stitches*?

Kassy: Yeah, so stitches—honestly, there's kind of two kinds that come to my mind. The first is if you get significantly injured, like you cut yourself and your skin is opened and you need it closed, then you would have a doctor, sew stitches into your skin to close that wound.

Andrew: Exactly. So, if you cut yourself and the cut is too big for it to heal naturally, then you have to go to the emergency room and the doctor will stitch you up, will sew your skin back together with a kind of medical grade thread, I suppose. Personally, I've never had stitches before. Kassy, have you ever had stitches from some kind of medical accident or something, some injury?

Kassy: I did, what I was, how old? Two years old? It was right on my forehead. I still have the scar.

Andrew: Classic. Yeah, those little kids running around bumping into things.

Kassy: Yep.

Andrew: OK, so stitches then we can call this kind of medical treatment. But it's also used when we're talking about clothing and sewing, right?

Kassy: Yep.

Andrew: Great. So yeah, it's the same concept when you're using thread to put two pieces of fabric together each time you put the needle into the clothes and then pull it back out that is called one stitch. That's a stitch. So, then Kassy, why do we use this word, and this expression—**in stitches**, stitch, stitches—to talk about laughing and things that are really funny?

Kassy: Honestly, I relate this, stitches, to another definition, which is *side stitches*. And that is this feeling of pain that you get in, like, your abdomen, your, like, torso area, when you **overexert yourself**, like when you run for too long of a time. Or, yeah, when you breathe too heavily. So, it's a little bit different than these needle stitches but when I think of the term, you know, like something so funny, I'm **in stitches**, it's that same feeling, like, you've laughed so hard that your torso kind of hurts. And you have these side stitches, you've laughed so hard, your body hurts.

Andrew: OK, that's so interesting, because the way that I've always visualized this expression is that when you're **in stitches**, it's like, you're laughing so hard that your stomach or your sides, like, you know. When you laugh really hard, you kind of can feel that pain in your stomach, right? Like, it almost hurts a little bit. I've always imagined that it's like, your stomach is going to explode and you're **in stitches** to try and keep your stomach from exploding. It's like the stitches have been put in there to keep you together so that you don't explode.

Kassy: Ah, totally different.

Andrew: Yeah, totally different. That's funny, but your explanation almost makes more sense to me. But at the end of the day then, the key point here, listeners, is that this expression **in stitches** means to really, really, really find something funny and be laughing so hard that it feels like almost painful, right? And it's almost like you can't **catch your breath**.

Kassy: Yeah, you're like, "Haha!" Yeah, like that. Like, you're like breathing too heavily. So funny, you can't even talk.

Andrew: You can't talk, and you can't even really grab a hold of yourself. It's almost like this reaction that's impossible to control, this is being **in stitches**.

Kassy: Well, Andrew, should we take a listen to our first example conversation?

Andrew: Yeah, let's do it now.

Friend 1: So, what are you doing this weekend?

Friend 2: This weekend my sister and her husband are in town. So, we're planning to meet up and grab some dinner together.

Friend 1: Oh, that sounds nice.

Friend 2: Yeah, I actually can't wait. It maybe sounds a little bit weird, but I love hanging out with my brother-in-law. The guy's a blast. He's super funny and he has me **in stitches** every time we get together.

Friend 1: That's so great. Actually, my brother-in-law is the total opposite. He's so mind-numbingly boring. I'm practically falling asleep at the dinner table. I'm not sure what my sister sees in him. Anyway, enjoy your time with your family.

Friend 2: Yeah, thanks, I will.

Andrew: So, in this example, we hear two friends talking about their brothers-in-law. And they were totally different people. One of the brothers-in-law was really fun, and interesting and exciting and a hilarious guy. And the other one was mind-numbingly boring. Mind-numbingly boring, which means very, very boring. All right, so boring that it puts your mind, your brain, to sleep. Makes it feel numb. The funny guy, when he was being talked about, he was described as being able to get his brother-in-law **in stitches** every time they get together. The guy said, "He has me **in stitches** every time we get together." So, that just means that when those two brothers-in-law spend time together, it's just a really enjoyable time and one of them is so funny and the other one laughs a lot when they spend time with each other.

Kassy: Exactly.

Andrew: Perfect. OK, well, let's take a listen to the second example with this expression in stitches right now.

Coworker 1: Have you met the new hire in the design department yet?

Coworker 2: No, I haven't. Today is her first day, right? What's she like?

Coworker 1: Oh my god, you're gonna love her. She's **a real character**. I only met her briefly, but she had me **in stitches** right away.

Coworker 2: That's perfect. We really need someone like that in this office to lighten up the mood. I'm going to go over and introduce myself. I can't wait to meet her!

Coworker 1: OK. yeah, see you later.

Kassy: OK, in this example conversation, we have two coworkers discussing a new hire, which is a new coworker that has just joined the design department. And it turns out that this new hire this new coworker, has a really great personality. You know, it's her first day, but she's already putting her coworkers **in stitches**. She has such a jovial, funny character that even on her first day, she's making a great impression and making everybody laugh.

Andrew: It's not an easy thing to do to get your brand-new coworkers **in stitches** on the first day on the job.

Kassy: Exactly.

Andrew: That's incredible. One of the expressions that we heard in that example, is that talking about that new coworker, one of the speakers said, "She's **a real character**." She's **a real character**. What does it mean if we call somebody a character? Like he's a character, or she's a character? What does that mean?

Kassy: It means like, she has a really unique and interesting personality.

Andrew: Very different than most people, right? Like really unique and it could be in many different ways. We could almost say that if somebody's like, really mean and grumpy and negative in a special way, we could say, "That person's **a real character**." Right? Meaning like, their personalities pretty bad, but also like in that example, we heard about somebody who's so funny, and we said, "Oh, she's a real character." So, it can go either way. It just means the person's personality is very unique in some manner.

Kassy: Yeah, they definitely leave an impression.

Andrew: Exactly, exactly. Why don't we move on to the second key expression for this episode, which is, **to crack someone up, to crack someone up**. Now, I could say, it **cracks me up**, it **cracks you up**, **cracks him up**, **cracks her up**, right? We can change it depending on who we're talking about. But **to crack someone up**, Kassy, if I were to say, "You really **crack me up**." You really **crack me up**. What does that mean?

Kassy: It means you're hilarious.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. So, Kassy, if I say, "Oh, Kassy, you really **crack me up**." It means that, Kassy, you are a really hilarious, funny person. So, I have to ask, what comes to your mind when you hear this expression? I wonder if we have the same visual image in our head with this one.

Kassy: Honestly, for this one, I don't know why but I just imagine like you just start erupting in laughter. Like your mouth cracks open and you start laughing. I don't know, like, spontaneous laughter 'cause something's so funny.

Andrew: Right. It's almost like how we were mentioning before, with **in stitches** when you start laughing, and it's uncontrollable, it's like your expression breaks, right? You can't maintain just a neutral expression, like the laughter appears everywhere in your body, maybe you start moving up and down and breathing differently and smiling largely. And maybe your face turns a little bit red too, right? So, it's like you can't control yourself. It's like your fixed body position cracks, and you've lost all control to the laughter. I think that's the kind of thing that I think about with this expression.

Kassy: I can say that I use this expression, you **crack me up**, or **to crack you up** a lot more than **in stitches**.

Andrew: Yep, that is a great point. Me as well. I think this one is much, much more common. **In stitches**, you know, you'll hear it from time to time and people use it from time to time, but it's not really a daily expression, per se. Whereas **to crack you up**, is used all the time and it's a very, very common expression. So, it's a great one to know. And maybe one that isn't really obvious on the surface when you see it, it doesn't really look like it's going to mean to laugh a lot, and to be really funny, but indeed, that is what it means. So, I

think now is the perfect time to take a listen to a couple of conversation examples with this expression. So why don't we do that right now?

Kassy: Let's do it.

Friend 1: I had the most embarrassing bus ride to work today.

Friend 2: Really? What happened?

Friend 1: So, I was listening to this podcast, and it was just so funny. It just **cracked me up** and I started laughing uncontrollably. All of the other passengers just started staring at me and were probably thinking I was crazy or something.

Friend 2: That's happened to me before, too. You know, these days, I don't even listen to comedy podcasts on public transportation. It's too dangerous.

Friend 1: I might have to start doing that too. I'll save the comedy for only when I'm in the car.

Friend 2: Let me know that podcast though. If it's that funny, I want to take a listen to it.

Friend 1: Of course, I'll text you the info.

Andrew: So, in that example, we heard about a woman who laughed a lot while she was riding the bus. She was listening to a comedy podcast while riding the bus. And the podcast **cracked her up**. It made her laugh uncontrollably while she was on the bus. And she was embarrassed because of that because, you know, it's kind of funny if suddenly out of the blue, just randomly, somebody starts laughing uncontrollably when they're by themselves. I think we could all imagine this situation. You'd be like, what's so funny? Why is this person laughing? It's a little bit strange. Kassy, has this ever happened to you before? Have you ever heard something like while you were on the subway or on the bus that made you **crack up**?

Kassy: No, but I think I've done this before, not like a lot of laughter but definitely one or two loud chuckles that had people staring at me a little crazily.

Andrew: This has definitely happened to me before. And in fact, this is my own personal rule. There are some really funny podcasts that I love listening to but I never listened to them on the subway or on the bus anymore, because they're just too funny. And I start laughing and smiling on the bus and it's a little bit embarrassing. So, no more comedy on public transportation. This is my own personal rule, in fact.

Kassy: Listeners, **take it to heart**.

Andrew: Yes. I've been saved a little bit by the pandemic though because now when I ride the bus or the subway, I always wear a mask and I can kind of hide my smile behind the mask. So, I started sneaking some comedy podcasts back into my listening. But anyways, why don't we move on to one final conversation example with this expression **to crack somebody up**?

Friend 1: You know that stand-up comedian Ricky Gervais? He's coming to town next month for a show and I was thinking of buying tickets. You want to go?

Friend 2: I'm not really sure. Do you actually think he's funny? I think he's kind of a jerk and not really funny at all.

Friend 1: No way! That guy **cracks me up**. He's hilarious.

Friend 2: He's not really my style. So, I'll skip it this time, but you should ask Jeff if he wants to go with you. He's a big Ricky Gervais fan.

Friend 1: Really? I didn't know that. I'll ask him then.

Kassy: OK, in this example conversation, one guy invites his friend to a Ricky Gervais stand-up comedy show, and she turns him down. She is not interested in Ricky's sense of humour. While he **cracks some people up**, he makes some people laugh, he really offends others. You know, a lot of people have different tastes in humour, and it didn't match this girl's sense of humour.

Andrew: Exactly. So, for listeners who don't know, Ricky Gervais is a comedian from the UK and he's pretty controversial. Some people love him. Some people hate him. Me personally sometimes I think he's quite funny and sometimes I don't. So yeah, I do agree that he's pretty polarizing. But the reason why I included him in this episode, it was actually the Ricky Gervais podcast that made me **crack up** on the bus and stop listening to comedy on public transportation. So, I think these two examples, Kassy, they kind of inspired each other maybe.

Kassy: I like it.

Andrew: OK, guys, well, we hope that you liked this episode, and that is going to bring us to the end of it. So, thank you for listening today. I hope you were able to learn a lot with us here today and good job on getting in your daily dose of English listening practice and vocabulary practice. Of course, you guys are doing exactly what you need to do to get better with your English fluency. So, keep on up the great work.

Kassy: Andrew and I taught you two idiomatic expressions today about how to talk about funny people and funny things. Now, it's your turn to practice using these expressions. You can practice by making some example sentences and leaving them on our discussion forum or comments section on our website, Culips.com.

Andrew: If you enjoy Culips and find it useful for helping you build your English skills, we would love it if you could support us by leaving a five-star rating and a positive review on your favourite podcast app, by following us on Instagram or YouTube, or by telling your friends who are learning English to check us out.

Kassy: We'll be back with another brand-new episode soon and we'll talk to you then. Bye, everyone.

Andrew: Goodbye.

Detailed Explanations

In stitches

Idiom

The expression **to be in stitches** means to laugh very hard, almost to the point where you cannot control your laughter. A person that is **in stitches** thinks something is so funny and amusing that they can't hold their laughter back.

To **have someone in stitches** means to make other people laugh. If you **have someone in stitches**, you have said something so funny that it has caused a lot of laughter.

When you are **in stitches**, you cannot stop laughing and sometimes you may even feel some painful sensations inside your body (your abdomen, the sides, etc.) because you are laughing too hard.

In this episode, Kassy mentions that she thinks of *side stitches* when saying or hearing this expression. This means to feel pain in the sides of your stomach or chest when you are not breathing enough. For example, when you run really fast or laugh too hard.

Here are a couple of examples with **in stitches**:

Simon: I can't seem to find the remote control. Have you seen it by chance?

Oscar: I think you should ask mom. Do you remember what happened last time when you and dad were watching that comedy show? You know when they made a joke about women driving?

Simon: Oh, right. I do remember that joke! When dad heard it, he was **in stitches**, literally rolling on the floor.

Oscar: Well, it's almost 7 p.m. now and the show's going to start. So, you see what I mean? I think mom doesn't want you guys to watch the show, so she took the remote.

Reese: That comedian **had us all in stitches!** We had the best time watching his show last night! You should definitely go see the show too!

Eliza: I'm not that into stand-up comedy myself, but my boyfriend Dave is. Maybe I should ask him to go and see it tonight. Thanks, Reese.

To crack [someone] up

Phrasal verb

To crack up means to laugh a lot and with a lot of enthusiasm. **To crack [someone] up** means to make someone else laugh in the exact same way. This expression, along with the expression **in stitches**, is used to describe funny things and people.

When you say that someone **cracks you up**, what you mean is that that person is extremely funny and makes you “crack” or, laugh. Usually, you hear or see something funny that causes a spontaneous reaction in your body or, as Andrew puts it, your “expression breaks.” What he meant is that when you burst into laughter your eyes get teary, you struggle **to catch your breath** and you can’t speak very well because the laughter has taken over your entire body.

It isn’t always necessarily a person that **cracks you up**, it can also be a funny thing or situation that happens and suddenly makes you laugh.

Here are a couple more examples with **to crack [someone] up**:

Mom: Hey, Jasper. You’re home already. How was today’s meeting? Did it go the way you thought it would? Was it a success?

Jasper: It was alright, I guess. I felt really stressed out before the meeting and you know how speaking in public makes me feel. But as I was presenting my part, that initial feeling of stress had faded away and I was able to relax...

Mom: I have a feeling there’s more to that story. What happened?

Jasper: Well, okay, I’ll tell you. As I was in the middle of my presentation, the most embarrassing thing happened! I switched to the next slide and saw that it had a video of me making faces in front of the camera. As you can imagine, that **cracked everyone up**. They were laughing nonstop for like 5 minutes.

Mom: Wait a minute... I remember that video! You were around 5 or 6 when it was taken. I wonder if it was your brother who added it to your presentation to play a prank on you. I’ll go and talk to that little prankster.

Hazel: This new book by Jasmine Cornberry **cracks me up**. If she wasn’t a writer, she could easily make a career as a stand-up comedian!

Will: Oh, really? Maybe I should get a copy of this book for my son. You know how much he hates reading, but if that book is funny, he might enjoy it.

To overexert oneself

Verb

When you **exert yourself**, you work really hard to do something. However, if there is a task that you need to complete and this task isn't that easy, and you have to strain yourself—either mentally or physically—and work too hard to complete the task, then you could **overexert** yourself. When you put too much effort into something, you are **overexerting yourself**.

In this episode, Kassy used this expression as she describes the feeling of pain that you get when laughing too hard or, as she put it, **overexert yourself**. When you overexert your body or mind, it means that you become exhausted, sick, or injured because you worked too hard or used up all your energy doing something.

In summary, when you exert yourself, you work hard and put a lot of effort into achieving your goals, but when you **overexert yourself**, you can become sick or exhausted because you work too hard.

Here are a couple more examples with **to overexert oneself**:

Luna: I can barely catch my breath! My heart's pounding right now!

River: I love your motivation, but don't you think that you should pace yourself a little bit? It's not like you're trying to set a speed record or something, right? **Overexerting yourself** is unnecessary. It takes time to see progress and you won't be able to achieve all your fitness goals over a single training session.

Luna: Yeah, I think you're right. I'd better take a little break. Let's stop here for today.

Ivy: You've been working for this company for more than five years now. But if you really want our boss to give you a raise, you will have to exert yourself a little more.

Owen: What is that supposed to mean, Ivy? Are you saying that I'm not doing a good enough job? Do you want me to **overexert myself**?

Ivy: You can't be serious right now! You have been coming in late, missing deadlines and slacking off at the coffee machine in the hall while everyone else is working! You call that a good job? Honestly, I'm surprised Mr. Lebec hasn't fired you yet. But if you keep doing this, he surely will. It's just a matter of time, Owen.

To catch one's breath

Phrase

When you say that you can't **catch your breath**, what you mean is that you have a hard time breathing normally. Sometimes it is used to describe when someone is experiencing a medical emergency that prevents them from breathing naturally. At other times, this feeling is temporary and can be caused by physical exercise or any kind of energetic activity. When this feeling occurs, you need to take a little break until you're able to breathe normally again.

We also use this expression to talk about situations when we laugh too hard, and it is hard to breathe because you are laughing so much.

Another situation when you can use **catch one's breath** is when you suddenly stop breathing for a short period of time because you feel surprised or shocked. For example, when you see something beautiful or unexpected.

Here are a couple more examples with **to catch one's breath**:

Harper: Could we take a little break and rest for a while? I feel like I need a moment **to catch my breath**.

Charlie: What's the matter, Harper? Is walking up this hill too difficult? I thought you were in a much better shape. Come on, we are halfway up. Get up! We'll rest when we are there. Here have some water.

Riley: Are you sure that's a good idea? I have a feeling that we shouldn't go in there. If they catch us, we'll be in so much trouble.

Darcy: Just take my hand and follow me. It's going to be alright, trust me.

Riley: Are we there yet? I can hardly see anything.

Darcy: We're almost there—it's right around that corner. Can you see it? Now, watch your step! It's slippery up here.

Riley: My goodness! I don't think I've ever seen anything like this in my entire life. It's so beautiful! I can't **catch my breath**. How did you manage to find this place?

Darcy: Shh! I can hear the guards walking nearby. Let's get out of here before they see us.

To take [something] to heart Idiom

In this episode, Andrew tells Kassy that he no longer listens to comedy podcasts in public. Andrew is embarrassed when he laughs in public places and so he developed this personal rule, so he no longer has to feel embarrassed.

Kassy reacts to this by suggesting that listeners **take that piece of advice to heart**. What Kassy means is that she wants the listener to carefully consider all of the aspects of that recommendation and then decide whether or not that advice is something that you would like to apply to your own life. She believes that that is a useful piece of advice that can be helpful to others.

To take [something] to heart can also mean to feel upset about something. If someone says something unkind or something bad happens to you, and you **take that to heart**, you are letting something upset you or make you feel unpleasant.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take something to heart**:

Chloe: You look so pale, honey. What's wrong?

Evelyn: I'm worried sick! My sister just called. She told me that our parents have been arguing all morning. It looks like they want to get a divorce.

Chloe: That's too bad! I'm so sorry to hear that! But I don't think you should **take it to heart**. They've been together for almost twenty years and it's just a matter of time before they've patched things up. They are a very loving couple.

Evelyn: Thanks, Chloe. I think you're right and I shouldn't **take it to heart** too much.

Cora: This book on parenting is a treasure! Hey, check out this bit—it's absolutely hilarious!

Clara: I'm all ears. What is it about?

Cora: Here is my favorite line. "If you don't know where your kids are in the house, turn off the Internet and watch them magically appear."

Clara: That has me cracking up! I'll **take that to heart** the next time I can't find my youngest.

A real character

Noun

In this episode, we hear an example conversation about a new hire who is **a real character**. **A real character** is someone who's unique, unusual, and different from other people and stands out from the rest. **A real character** is an original person, someone who has their own way of doing things.

This expression has both positive and negative aspects to it. When you say that someone is **a real character**, you either mean that you like that person and admire them for their unique qualities (for example, someone with a unique sense of humor), or that you don't like them (for example, this person is unpleasant to be around—they often get cranky or irritable and they might even say mean things to you).

It's very common to use this expression to refer to funny people like the coworkers did in the example conversation. They call the new hire **a real character** because she's extremely funny.

Here are a couple more examples with **a real character**:

Elijah: I had such a good time tonight. Thanks for inviting me over to your house. Your dad is **a real character**. He's so funny!

Morgan: Yeah, I know, right? One time, he made me laugh so hard that I nearly fell off of my chair. I don't know why he doesn't do comedy for a living. He'd be a huge success.

Rowan: Do you know that you can be **a real character** sometimes?

Sage: I've heard that before. For some reason, something about my personality just annoys people.

Rowan: I think it's because you always have to be right. You never just let other people say something without starting arguments to prove them wrong.

Sage: Yeah, I should probably try to work on that. If I did, I may have a better chance at making new friends.

Quiz

1. Which of the following means that you are having difficulty breathing?

- a) can't see my feet
- b) can't catch your breath
- c) can't catch a ball
- d) can't feel your face

2. If you run 10 km more than your usual 5 km run, what are you doing?

- a) beating a record
- b) overexerting yourself
- c) getting very fit
- d) failing your goals

3. If you are in stitches, _____.

- a) you should see a doctor
- b) you should stay home and rest
- c) you should take a selfie
- d) you are laughing very hard

4. Your friend cracks you up every time you're on the bus. What are they doing to you?

- a) They are yelling at you
- b) They are doing nothing
- c) They are making you laugh a lot
- d) They are breaking your arm

5. While you were having an argument, your friend told you that you can be a real character sometimes. They mean that _____.

- a) you've put up some extra weight
- b) you're lazy
- c) sometimes you're difficult to deal with
- d) you're very attractive

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Are you a funny person? Who is the funniest person you know? What makes them so funny?
2. Would you agree that laughter is the best medicine? Why?
3. Is there anything we shouldn't joke about? Why do you think so?
4. Is stand-up comedy a popular kind of entertainment in your country? Do you have a favorite stand-up comedian? What makes you like them so much?
5. Are you good at telling jokes? Have you ever tried writing your own jokes? If so, did you manage to make other people laugh?

Quiz Answers

1.b 2.b 3.d 4.c 5.c

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Kassy White

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Kevin Moorehouse

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Aleksandr Zhavruk

English editor: Edden Yohanes

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Image: Priscilla Du Preez (Unsplash.com)