



Accent
International
Language Consultancy

“Yer ‘avin’ a larf!”

or... “The role of humour in Business English teaching.”

Mark Waistell
Senior Partner – Accent International

www.accent-international.com
mark@accent-international.co.uk

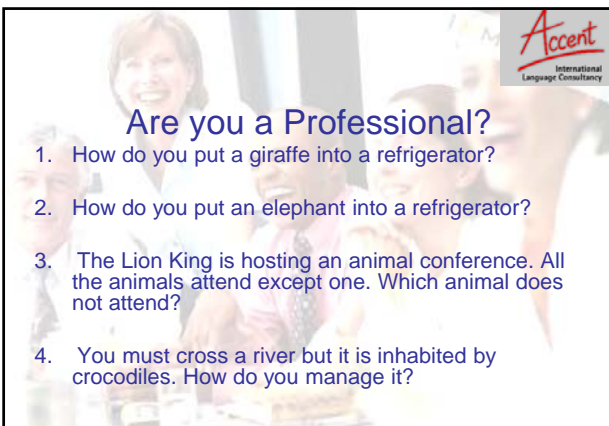


Accent
International
Language Consultancy

Please supply your own captions.



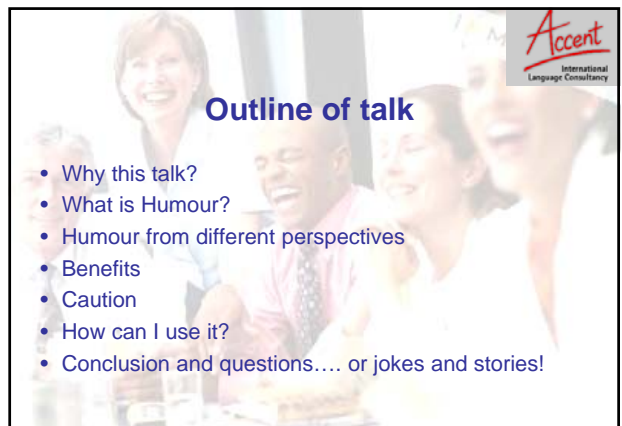




Accent
International
Language Consultancy

Are you a Professional?

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?
4. You must cross a river but it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?



Accent
International
Language Consultancy

Outline of talk

- Why this talk?
- What is Humour?
- Humour from different perspectives
- Benefits
- Caution
- How can I use it?
- Conclusion and questions.... or jokes and stories!



Accent
International
Language Consultancy

CPD

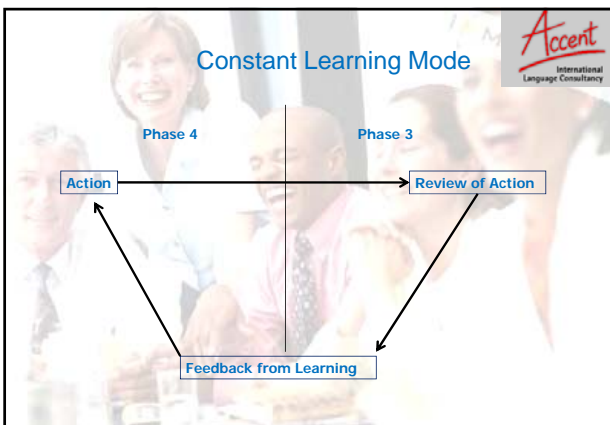
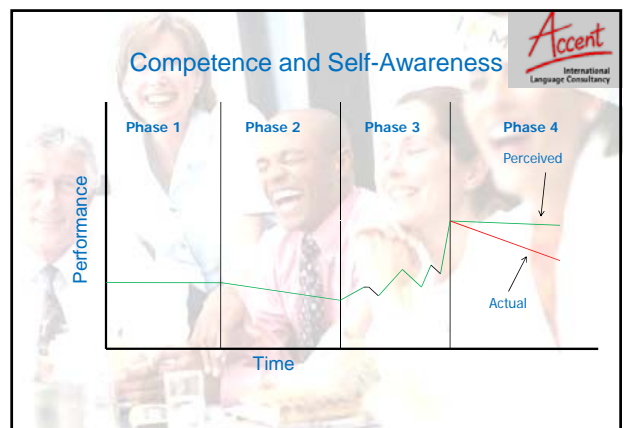
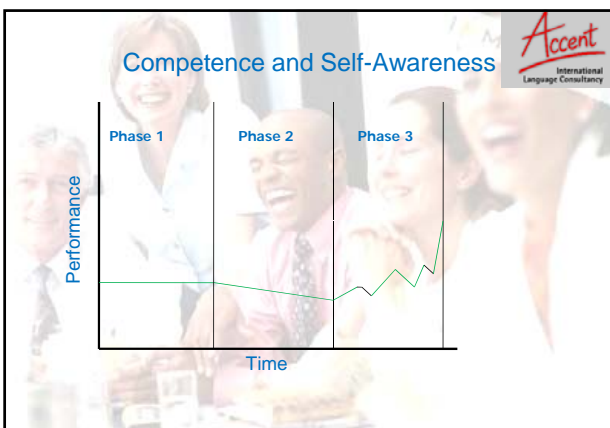
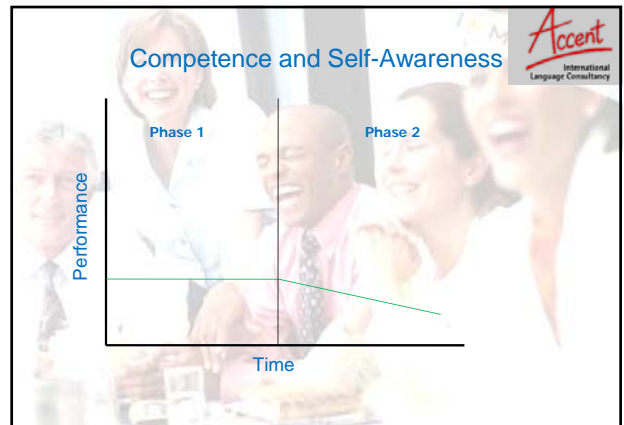
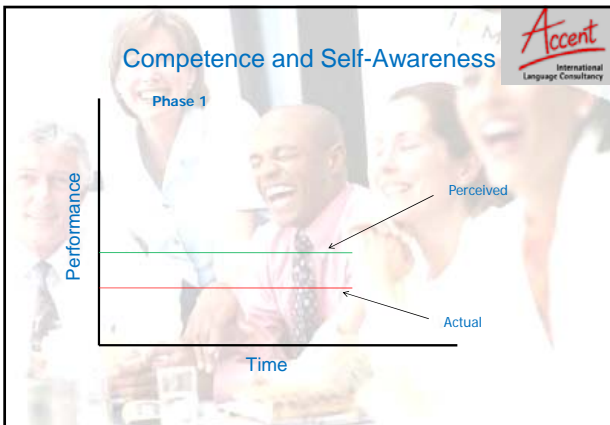
Teaching is a dynamic skill, one that needs to be updated regularly if not constantly.



Accent
International
Language Consultancy

How to teach an old dog new tricks

In order to teach a dog – irrespective of its age – new tricks, you first of all need a dog with certain natural abilities and a character open to performing tricks.



Burnout!

“Burnout is a syndrome of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment. It culminates in a build-up of negative feelings about our students, colleagues and administration. As motivation decreases and frustration increases, we lose the desire and energy to be creative, developing teachers. Physical and emotional stress play on self-esteem and we lose the sense of being in charge of our lives.”


(Maslach 1982)

Accent International Language Consultancy



Why this talk?

- The Accent Approach
- Business English Teachers
- Theoretical Basis
- Just good fun!



“The sharing of **joy**, whether physical, emotional, psychic, or intellectual, **forms a bridge** between the sharers which can be the basis for understanding much of what is not shared between them, and **lessens the threat** of their difference.” *Audre Lorde*



and also.....

Children laugh 400 times a day while adults laugh only 15 times.




Anatomy of a Business English Teacher

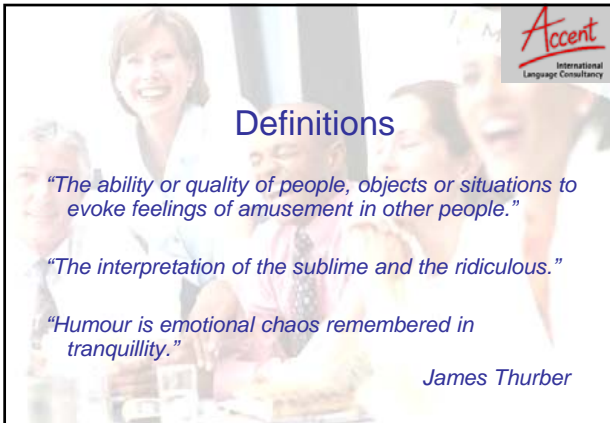
```

    graph TD
      A((Business English Teacher)) --- B((Consultant))
      A --- C((Expert))
      A --- D((Priest))
      A --- E((Military Drummer))
      A --- F((Actor))
      A --- G((Motivator))
      A --- H((Prostitute))
      A --- I((Salesperson))
      A --- J((Troubleshooter))
  
```



What is Humour?

Origin of the term in ancient Greece



Accent
International Language Consultancy

Definitions

“The ability or quality of people, objects or situations to evoke feelings of amusement in other people.”

“The interpretation of the sublime and the ridiculous.”

“Humour is emotional chaos remembered in tranquillity.”

James Thurber



Accent
International Language Consultancy

Explanation of Humour

“Humour can be dissected as a frog can but (in both) the thing dies in the process and the innards are discouraging to any but the pure scientific mind.”

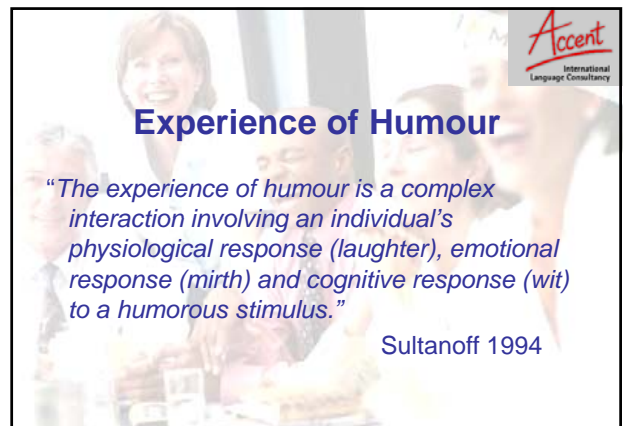
E.B.White



Accent
International Language Consultancy

Humour

<p>Humour is NOT...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (just) telling jokes Dismissing serious concerns Disruptive (usually) Derogatory 	<p>Humour IS.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An open approach A light attitude Creative Relationship-building
---	---



Accent
International Language Consultancy

Experience of Humour

“The experience of humour is a complex interaction involving an individual’s physiological response (laughter), emotional response (mirth) and cognitive response (wit) to a humorous stimulus.”

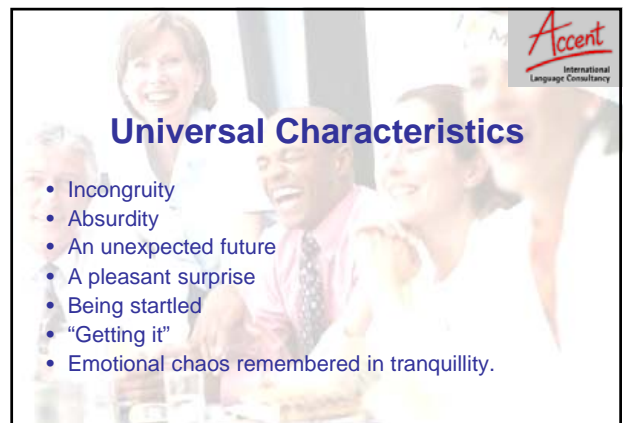
Sultanoff 1994



Accent
International Language Consultancy

The oldest joke in the world

- The Sphinx and Oedipus
- The oldest European joke?
 - “Dic mihi, adulescens, fuit aliquando mater tua Romae?”
 - “Negavit”, ille nec contentus adjecit, “sed pater meus saepe”.



Accent
International Language Consultancy

Universal Characteristics

- Incongruity
- Absurdity
- An unexpected future
- A pleasant surprise
- Being startled
- “Getting it”
- Emotional chaos remembered in tranquillity.

Accent
International Language Consultancy

The funniest joke in the world

- League table of who found jokes the funniest
- Eire, UK, Australia, New Zealand - word play.
- Americans and Canadians - superiority gags
- Continental Europe - surreal jokes
- Structure of the funniest jokes
- The funniest joke!

Accent
International Language Consultancy

Intercultural Communication – a linguistic view

Accent
International Language Consultancy

From a Business Perspective

- Contented cows give better milk.
- Worriers and non-worriers
- Humour as preparation and stimulus
- The bottom line
- “Discretionary effort”

Accent
International Language Consultancy


Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com

Accent
International Language Consultancy

From an Educational Perspective

- “Classrooms in which laughter is welcome help bring learning to life.”
Dickinson, D., “Humour and the Multiple Intelligences.”
- It helps to form positive relationships
- It can enliven “dry” material
- It aids creativity, retention and ...learning


Accent
International Language Consultancy



Physical Benefits of Humour

- When you laugh, heart rate increases, blood flow speeds up, muscles convulse and hundreds of little biochemical changes take place. Laughing up to 200 times a day is the equivalent of rowing for ten minutes or fifteen minutes on the exercise bike.
- Endorphins, the body's natural pain killers are released during laughter.
- IgA (an antibody), Gamma Interferon, killer T-cells, B-cells and tolerance to pain are increased with laughter while serum cortisol (a hormone secreted when one is under stress) is seen to decrease with laughter.
- Heart attack survivors who experience 30 minutes of humour daily are less likely to suffer a second heart attack, require lower doses of medication and have lower blood pressure than those who don't.

DOCTOR: "You'll live to be 60!"
 PATIENT: "I AM 60!"
 DOCTOR: "See – what did I tell you!"



Psychological Benefits of Humour

- Laughter provides a release of stored negative emotions such as fear, anger, and sadness.
- Laughter stimulates both sides of the brain to keep the brain alert and enhance learning.
- Humour enables you to see something in a different way
- Humour changes behaviour – we talk more, make more eye contact, touch more etc.


"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people"



Caution

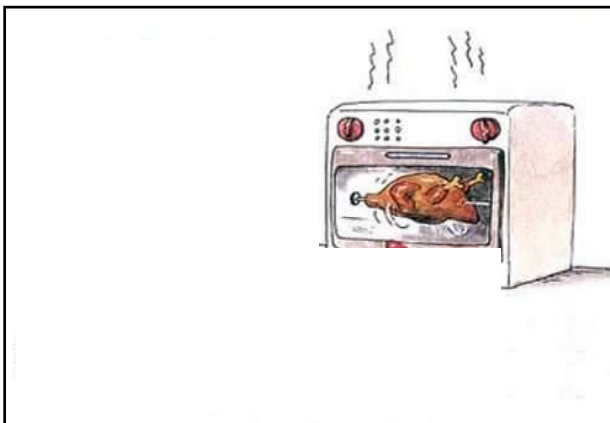

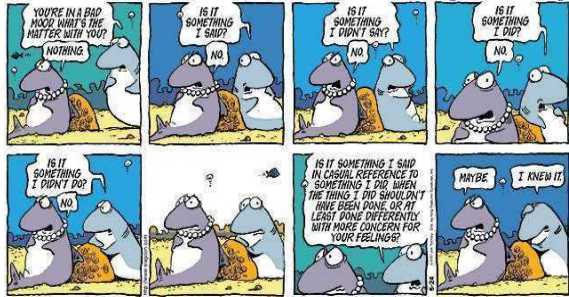


Women work all the time-
 Men have to put up signs when they work.



Caution

- Nothing will get done. Students will enjoy themselves but learn nothing.
- I will lose my credibility as a teacher.
- Someone might use it inappropriately and offend others.


Accent
International Language Consultancy

My students are serious learners.

- Contented cows give better milk
- Humour bestows credibility on the trainer & builds rapport
- Humour encourages and models creative thinking
- Humour removes threat from the learning environment
- Humour and play both activate long-term memory

Accent
International Language Consultancy

Mostly Business by Ted Goff
© 2007 Ted Goff www.newslettercartoons.com



"I used to have a sunny disposition until I crunched the numbers on what it was costing me."

[Click to see previous cartoons](#)

Accent
International Language Consultancy

How can I use Humour?

Can you read this?

I cduoilt bivelee taht I cluod aulacity uesdnatnd waht I was rdanieg.

The phoenmeaal pweer of the hmuasn mind, aoccdnmg to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in waht order the lttersin a word are, the olny iprmoant timg is taht the frist and lsat ltter be in the rghit pdae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mind deos not raed evrey lttter by listef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amznanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spling was ipmorant!!

- Humorous Materials
- Jokes
- Motivation
- Defusing
- Holistic approach


Accent
International Language Consultancy

The job of the teacher is to get the students laughing and, when their mouths are open, to give them something to chew on!

- Don't try to be funny – just try to have fun.
- Don't try too hard
- Do what fits your personality
- Don't use exclusive humour
- Show you can take it!
- Make humour an integral part of your class.
- Use planned, planned spontaneous, truly spontaneous and accidental humour.

Accent
International Language Consultancy

Conclusion



Real humour is openness, optimism and a kind of “yes-saying” to life. When you get spontaneous lightness and spontaneous interaction, humour is naturally present.

Take yourself lightly and your work seriously.

Accent
International Language Consultancy

Please supply your own captions.



Please supply your own captions.



"Yer 'avin' a larf!"

or... "The role of humour in Business English teaching."

Mark Waistell

Senior Partner – Accent International

www.accent-international.com

mark@accent-international.co.uk