UDEMY CHEAT SHEET: COMEDY WRITING

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Comedy Writing: Master the Craft of Making People Laugh
Learn joke structure, satire, parody, improv, and visual humor — write comedy that actually
works

PROMO VIDEO: 00-promo.mp4

SECTION 1: The Roots of Comedy

Lesson 01: What Is Comedy
Video: 01-what-is-comedy.mp4
Description: Defining comedy and understanding the fundamental principles that make something funny.

Lesson 02: From Cavemen to Court Jesters
Video: 02-from-cavemen-to-court-jesters.mp4
Description: The origins of comedy — how humor evolved from ancient rituals to Renaissance
wit.

Lesson 03: Comedy Evolves With Media
Video: 03-comedy-evolves-with-media.mp4
Description: How print, radio, film, television, and the internet each transformed comedy writing.

Lesson 04: Why Comedy History Matters for Writers
Video: 04-why-comedy-history-matters-for-writers.mp4
Description: What the evolution of comedy teaches us about writing humor that works today.

SECTION 2: The Power of Observation

Lesson 05: Why Observation Is a Comedy Superpower
Video: 05-why-observation-is-a-comedy-superpower.mp4
Description: The foundation of all great comedy: noticing what everyone else overlooks.

Lesson 06: Sharpening Your Powers of Observation
Video: 06-sharpening-your-powers-of-observation.mp4
Description: Practical techniques for training yourself to see the world like a comedy writer.

Lesson 07: Sifting for Comic Potential
Video: 07-sifting-for-comic-potential.mp4
Description: How to evaluate your observations and identify the ones with real comic potential.

Lesson 08: Turning Observations Into Written Humor
Video: 08-turning-observations-into-written-humor.mp4
Description: Transforming raw observations into jokes, scenes, and comic premises.

SECTION 3: Surprise and Joke Construction

Lesson 09: Why Surprise Makes Us Laugh
Video: 09-why-surprise-makes-us-laugh.mp4
Description: The psychology of humor — why the unexpected is the engine of comedy.

Lesson 10: The Nature of Surprise
Video: 10-the-nature-of-surprise.mp4
Description: Understanding misdirection, timing, and the mechanics of comedic surprise.

Lesson 11: Building Jokes
Video: 11-building-jokes.mp4
Description: Joke anatomy — setups, punchlines, tags, callbacks, and the structures that make jokes land.

Lesson 12: Beyond One Liners
Video: 12-beyond-one-liners.mp4
Description: Extending humor into sequences, running gags, comic scenes, and sustained comedic narratives.

SECTION 4: Absurdity and Exaggeration

Lesson 13: Welcome to the Ridiculous
Video: 13-welcome-to-the-ridiculous.mp4
Description: Why absurdity works and how it creates a unique kind of laughter.

Lesson 14: The Logic of Absurdity
Video: 14-the-logic-of-absurdity.mp4
Description: The paradox that makes absurd humor work: it has to make sense on its own terms.

Lesson 15: The Power of Exaggeration
Video: 15-the-power-of-exaggeration.mp4
Description: How taking things too far — in exactly the right way — creates comedy.

Lesson 16: Putting Absurdity and Exaggeration to Work

Video: 16-putting-absurdity-and-exaggeration-to-work.mp4
Description: Practical techniques for writing absurd and exaggerated humor that lands consistently.

SECTION 5: Edgy Humor

Lesson 17: The Comedians Guilty Pleasures
Video: 17-the-comedians-guilty-pleasures.mp4
Description: An honest look at the humor that makes us laugh despite ourselves.

Lesson 18: Low Humor and Slapstick
Video: 18-low-humor-and-slapstick.mp4
Description: Physical comedy, pratfalls, and the art of making the body funny on the page.

Lesson 19: Mean Humor and the Art of the Insult
Video: 19-mean-humor-and-the-art-of-the-insult.mp4
Description: Writing sharp, effective insult comedy — and understanding where the line is.

Lesson 20: Sexual Innuendo and Bathroom Humor
Video: 20-sexual-innuendo-and-bathroom-humor.mp4
Description: How to handle risqué material with craft and intentionality.

SECTION 6: Pop Culture Humor

Lesson 21: Why Pop Culture Is Comedy Gold
Video: 21-why-pop-culture-is-comedy-gold.mp4
Description: Using shared cultural knowledge as a shortcut to laughter.

Lesson 22: Pop Culture As Comedy Shortcuts
Video: 22-pop-culture-as-comedy-shortcuts.mp4
Description: Leveraging references, tropes, and cultural touchstones to build instant rapport with your audience.

Lesson 23: Satirizing Pop Culture
Video: 23-satirizing-pop-culture.mp4
Description: Turning cultural phenomena into targets for smart, pointed comedy.

Lesson 24: Making Pop Culture Humor Last
Video: 24-making-pop-culture-humor-last.mp4
Description: Writing pop culture comedy that stays funny even after the trend fades.

SECTION 7: Visual Humor

Lesson 25: Comedy You Can See
Video: 25-comedy-you-can-see.mp4

Description: Introduction to visual humor — why some comedy works best when you can picture
it.

Lesson 26: Elements of Visual Humor
Video: 26-elements-of-visual-humor.mp4
Description: Composition, contrast, reaction, and the building blocks of comedy you can see.

Lesson 27: Writing Visual Humor
Video: 27-writing-visual-humor.mp4
Description: Translating visual comedy to the page — screenplays, comics, novels, and humor
essays.

Lesson 28: Visual Humor Digital Age
Video: 28-visual-humor-digital-age.mp4
Description: Memes, GIFs, short-form video, and the new frontier of visual comedy.

SECTION 8: Satire, Parody, and Sarcasm

Lesson 29: Comedys Sharpest Tools
Video: 29-comedys-sharpest-tools.mp4
Description: Introduction to the power trio: satire, parody, and sarcasm.

Lesson 30: Satire
Video: 30-satire.mp4
Description: Using humor to critique society, politics, and human nature — from Swift to The
Daily Show.

Lesson 31: Parody
Video: 31-parody.mp4
Description: Imitating and exaggerating a specific work, style, or genre for comic effect.

Lesson 32: Sarcasm
Video: 32-sarcasm.mp4
Description: The most misunderstood tool in comedy — how to write sarcasm that reads clearly
and hits hard.

SECTION 9: Improvisation for Writers

Lesson 33: The World of Improv

Video: 33-the-world-of-improv.mp4
Description: How improvised comedy works and why it matters for writers who never set foot
on a stage.

Lesson 34: The Rules of Improv
Video: 34-the-rules-of-improv.mp4
Description: "Yes, and..." and the other core principles that make improv work — adapted for
writing.

Lesson 35: Improv Techniques for Writers
Video: 35-improv-techniques-for-writers.mp4
Description: Practical improv exercises that improve your comedy writing speed and spontaneity.

Lesson 36: Improvised Comedy in Media
Video: 36-improvised-comedy-in-media.mp4
Description: How improv shapes TV, film, and podcasts — and what writers can steal from the
process.

SECTION 10: The Comedy Writer's Craft

Lesson 37: Putting It All Together
Video: 37-putting-it-all-together.mp4
Description: Integrating everything you've learned into your own comedy writing practice.

Lesson 38: Forms of Comedy Writing
Video: 38-forms-of-comedy-writing.mp4
Description: Sitcoms, sketch, essays, novels, screenplays, standup — matching your voice to
the right format.

Lesson 39: Building Your Comedy Material
Video: 39-building-your-comedy-material.mp4
Description: Developing a portfolio and body of work that showcases your comedy voice.

Lesson 40: The Comedy Writing Process
Video: 40-the-comedy-writing-process.mp4
Description: Establishing a sustainable, repeatable process for generating, refining, and finishing comedy.

Lesson 41: Your Comedy Writing Journey

Video: 41-your-comedy-writing-journey.mp4
Description: Your journey beyond this course. Continuing to develop your craft and finding your audience.