



Types of Humour

Humour is used to create situations that are funny and entertaining. In literature, it develops characters, making them memorable and it creates amusing plots. It arouses interest among readers, sustains their attention and helps them connect with the characters.

Types of Humour

Humour is, in fact, the end product and not the device itself. Below are some devices that create humour:

- Exaggeration or Overstatement: To represent as thing as greater than it is.
I have told you a million times to stop nagging.
- Understatement or Litotes: It is an expression of lesser emphasis. It is to downplay a situation or reaction by stating the opposite.
It was not the tastiest meal.
- Incongruity: something that is out of harmony with expectations.
*One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas.
How he got in my pajamas, I don't know. –Groucho Marx*
- Irony: The real meaning of the words is opposite to the literal meaning. Irony, unlike sarcasm, tends to be ambiguous, bringing two contrasting meanings into play.
The fire station burnt down while the firemen where rescuing a cat in the tree.
- Wordplay: word usage, with the goal of creating humor. These include puns, phonetic mix-ups such as spoonerisms, and oddly formed sentences
Joe got fired from the calendar company for taking a day off.
- Deadpan humour : The funny part of this type of humour is the seriousness of the person telling the joke. The joke is told without emotion.
- Sarcasm: This is when irony is used with the intention of making fun of another person. It is the tone of voice that differentiates a sarcastic comment from a statement.
Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.– Oscar Wilde