

ON HUMOUR, COMEDY AND FUN

- I. Listen to the beginning of the episode of the HAPPINESS LAB podcast called *Laurie gets a fun-tervention (part 1)* and answer the questions:

PART I (from 1:08)

1. Check out the meaning of these vocabulary items in bold by answering these questions:

- a. Is Sunday evening a good moment to **goof off** and do nothing?
- b. Have you ever been to a **dress rehearsal**?
- c. Why do they say that adolescence is the period of life where we really want to **blend in**?
- d. Do you ever feel you **are missing out on fun**?
- e. What do you **pride yourself for** being or having achieved?

2. Listen to the first part of the podcast and answer the following questions:

- a. Why did the speaker's mother cry watching the Peter Pan musical?
- b. What depressing realization did the speaker have in her 40s?

PART II (from 6:30 to 11:50)

1. Check out the meaning of these vocabulary items in bold by answering the following questions:

- a. Have you ever felt some kind of **internal void**?
- b. What is the most **soul-sucking** activity in your day-to-day life?
- c. Have you ever felt hurt by someone else's **innocuous comment**?
- d. How often do you **refresh your inbox** on your phone?

2. Listen to the second part of the podcast and answer the following questions:

- a. Where did the idea of a fun-tervention come from?
- b. Why did the project feel a bit 'pathetic' for the speaker?
- c. What made the writer of the book decide to research about fun?
- d. What is the 'Sunday Neurosis' according to Viktor Frankl?

II. Watch the Graham Norton Show clips with Ricky Gervais and answer the questions:

- a. What is all the fuss about drink-driving?
- b. Why do Ricky Gervais' co-stars say he's very annoying to work with?
- c. Why does he feel embarrassed by the photograph of him as a young man?
- d. What type of jokes does he **crack on** his wife over social media?
- e. When he was a child and everyone was **winding everyone up** at home, what happened with his sister?

III. Watch the video by *The School of Life* titled *Why Comedy Matters*

- a. What are the functions of comedy according to the video?
- b. What was the role of jesters in Royal Courts?
- c. Do you recognise any scenes from the films and TV-series shown?
- d. Please have a look at the following expressions and check the meaning in pairs before watching the video:
 - i. To mock / mockery / a mocking comment
 - ii. In the olden days
 - iii. to be gloomy
 - iv. flawed creatures
 - v. lovable fools
 - vi. akin to what Jesus did
 - vii. the foibles of people
 - viii. to feel sympathy for someone
 - ix. a token of maturity