**LAUGHTER is the best medicine.**

Fred is 32 years old and he is still single.
One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?"
Fred replied, "Actually, I've found many women I wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them."
His friend thinks for a moment and says, "I've got the perfect solution, just find a girl who's just like your mother."
A few months later they meet again and his friend says, "Did you find the perfect girl? Did your mother like her?"
With a frown on his face, Fred answers, "Yes, I found the perfect girl. She was just like my mother. You were right, my mother liked her very much."
The friend said, "Then what's the problem?"
Fred replied, "My father doesn't like her."

**Listening:** Laughter is what makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If you can’t laugh, life would be very boring and depressing. The sound \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the most beautiful sounds in the world. Just hearing it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ want to laugh too. I have to find out what’s funny so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or share the fun. I particularly love the sound of small children laughing. Their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s amazing the things they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I think I heard somewhere that laughter is the best medicine. That’s so true. I also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ keeps you healthy. A few people I know belong to a laughter club. They stand around in circles and laugh. Yes, laughter really is one of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Vocabulary: Explaing the meaning of the following words.**

LOL

Make sb laugh

Laugh at sb/st

Laugh in one’s face

Sense of humor

Humorous

Amusing

Black humor

Funny

Hilarious

Joke

**Conversation:**

Do you laugh a lot?

How important is laughter?

Do you often burst into laughter?

When did you last laugh? Why?

What do you think when you hear the sound of laughter?

Do you know anybody whose laughter is funny or strange?

Have you ever laughed at something you shouldn’t have – something very serious?

What do you think of canned laughter on the television?

Why do you think some people laugh more than others?

What social functions does laughter have?

Do men and women laugh about different things?

Who is funnier? Men or women?

**Reading:** Men are naturally funnier than women. This is the claim of a UK male professor, Sam Shuster. He conducted research on 400 different people as he unicycled around his town. He observed the reaction of onlookers and discovered that men made more jokes about him than women, and that men’s jokes were more aggressive. He said three-quarters of male “jokers” mocked him and made nasty comments, while most women tended to tease him with a smile. He said: "The difference between the men and women was absolutely remarkable and consistent." Professor Shuster believes the male hormone testosterone is the cause of men being funnier. He found that teenage boys were aggressive in their humor and this aggression changed with older men into a funnier form of joking.

Earlier research suggests women and men use humour differently. One study said women tend to tell fewer jokes than men and male comedians outnumber female ones. Another showed men look more for a punchline. Men also use people they know as the subject of their jokes, often in a negative way. Married men seem to like hearing and making jokes about mothers-in-law. British comedian John Moloney disagreed with Professor Shuster’s findings. He said that in his 21-year career in comedy, he had never noticed that men were funnier than women. He stated: "The difference is that if a group of women were together and the conversation lulls, they don't automatically start telling jokes, which men do. It then becomes a bit of a competition, but that doesn't mean to say men are funnier."

Are your favourite comedians men or women?

What do you think of the unicycling scientist’s research?

What do you think are the differences between male and female humor?

Do you have a good sense of humor?

Are you good at telling jokes?

Do you laugh at jokes told in English?

Do you agree that men have a “who can tell the best joke” competition – more so than women?

What was the last joke you heard?

Are there some things we should never make jokes about? What things, and why?

How do you react if you hear a joke which you simply don't think is funny?

**Two factory workers are talking.**The woman says, "I can make the boss give me the day off."
The man replies, "And how would you do that?"
The woman says, "Just wait and see." She then hangs upside-down from the ceiling.
The boss comes in and says, "What are you doing?"
The woman replies, "I'm a light bulb."
The boss then says, "You've been working so much that you've gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off."
The man starts to follow her and the boss says, "Where are you going?"
The man says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

