

How do you make them laugh with a great Christmas cracker?

Video transcript: The secret to the perfect one-liner

Off camera: *[Sneeze is heard from the chimney].*

Darren Walsh: I think Santa's coming down with something.

Now that joke was a cracker, but so often holiday humour leaves us groaning. So how can you make your friends and family laugh this Christmas and what is it that makes a joke funny?

Off camera: *Darren could you put the lights on please?*

Darren Walsh: Of course what makes a joke funny is entirely subjective. One group of people could find a joke *[laughing sound effects]* whilst another group of people could find it *[grooaaan sound effects]*.

But there is a certain logic. Usually there's a set-up and a punchline, with the punchline revealing an unexpected twist. Oh, thanks! *[Darren crunching]*.

So how do you write a joke? Well a good way of doing it is to work backwards. It's best to start by writing the punchline. But first you are going to need a subject and there's normally plenty of inspiration all around you

This subject is pony.

Anyone fancy a barbecue?

That's a bit pants.

Ahhh this reminds me of my ex-girlfriend: we kept breaking up and getting back together again.

This makes scents.

Well this is more truffle than it's worth.

Now this is a spectacle!

Well that takes the biscuit.

Coughs – sorry, I'm feeling a little horse.

Now that you've got your subject, think of all the associated words that could come from it.

Next take one of your associated words and think of a double meaning for it.

Take one of those double meanings and think of something someone would do with that – the sillier the better.

Finally it's time to complete the joke. I've no time to play Monopoly – I'm always on the GO!

Basically a joke is a word puzzle. The easier you make the joke the more you get [*grooaaannnnnn effects*]

The more clever you make the word puzzle the more you get [*canned laughter effects*]

Don't try and be too clever though or you might get [*howling wind effects*]

The most important thing to remember is not to force it (*whistle sound effect as faucet appears*)

Why don't you have a go at writing your own joke this Christmas? You never know, you might come up with a real cracker!

Thanks! [*crunching cracker*]

Anyone got a glass of water? Hey guys?