



BY DR PRISCILLA JSS

'Better a witty fool than a foolish wit,' wrote the greatest playwright of all time, Shakespeare, who portrayed fools to be possessed with a lot of wit and humour in most of his comedies. With this great dramatist's birth and death anniversaries being commemorated on April 23rd and All Fools' Day on April 1st, we look at words related to 'comedy' in part 8 of our special series 'World of Words'.

- 1 **BADINAGE**
friendly joking
- 2 **BANTER**
light-hearted remarks and jokes between people
- 3 **BLACK COMEDY**
film or play which depicts the funny side of subjects normally viewed as serious
- 4 **BON MOT**
funny and witty remark
- 5 **BUFFONERY**
silly and amusing behaviour
- 6 **CARICATURE**
funny drawing or description of someone, exaggerating their characteristics
- 7 **CARTOON**
funny drawing in a newspaper or magazine, especially about politicians or political events
- 8 **CHAFF SOMEBODY**
make friendly jokes about someone
- 9 **CLOWNING**
behaving in a silly or funny manner
- 10 **COMEDY OF ERRORS**
a phrase borrowed from one of Shakespeare's plays used to describe a funny situation that is full of confusion
- 11 **COMEDY OF MANNERS**
an amusing play, film or book depicting the social behaviour of a specific group of people as being silly
- 12 **COMICAL**
funny and amusing
- 13 **DROLL**
amusing in an unusual manner
- 14 **FUNNY**
amusing
- 15 **GAG**
joke, especially one told by a professional comedian
- 16 **HIGH COMEDY**
comedy involving sophisticated wit
- 17 **HILARIOUS**
extremely funny
- 18 **HUMOROUS**
funny and causing a lot of laughter
- 19 **JEST**
something said or done that is intended to be funny

20

JOCOSE very humorous

21

JOKE something said or done to make people laugh

22

LAUGH funny person

23

LOW COMEDY comedy that is silly and involves crude humour

24

MOCK-HEROIC ridicule of a heroic character, style or action

25

PARODY copy of a piece of music, writing, etc., in order to be amusing

26

PRANK funny trick

27

RAILLERY friendly joking

28

RIB SOMEONE laugh at and make friendly jokes about someone

29

ROAST an event, especially a banquet, where someone is honoured and people share funny stories about that person in a friendly manner

30

SATIRE form of criticism which uses humour to point out flaws

31

SEND UP make people laugh at someone or something through funny imitation

32

SHTICK style of humour that is typical of a comedian

33

SITCOM short for situation comedy, which is a show on television featuring the same characters in different amusing situations

34

SLAPSTICK humorous acting involving actors falling over, throwing things, etc.

35

SPOOF humorous copy of a film, television show or book

36

STAND-UP comedy involving telling jokes in front of people, usually as a job

37

TAKE-OFF copying the way one speaks or behaves in a humorous manner

38

TRAGICOMEDY play, film or story which is both sad and funny

39

VAUDEVILLE type of entertainment involving singing, dancing and comedy which was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

40

WISECRACK clever remark or joke

SOME LESSER-KNOWN WORDS REFERRING TO A FOOL

41. Addlebrain

42. Birdbrain

43. Blockhead

44. Chucklehead

45. Dunderhead

46. Ignoramus

47. Jackass

48. Nincompoop

49. Nitwit

50. Simpleton

