Comedy

Laughter and growth

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

1 **What was the last thing that had you in stitches?**

2 **What's a dad joke that comes to mind right now, and how do you feel about dad jokes?**

FREE TALK

1 Before streaming, families gathered around the TV, and a hit sitcom could have the whole country laughing at the same jokes. For many of us, its theme song still brings back a whole era. **Which sitcom or comedy show was big when you were growing up, and what did you love about it?**

2 Imagine you're at dinner with new acquaintances when an old friend launches into your most mortifying story. Some people jump in and add the funniest details, while others wish they could sink through the floor. **How do you usually react when someone brings up an embarrassing story about you, and which one have you finally learned to laugh at?**

3 Nearly everyone claims to have a good sense of humor. Yet for some that means being quick-witted, while for others it means laughing readily at other people's jokes. **How would your friends describe your sense of humor, and what does a good one really entail?**

4 Every country has its own comic signature: Americans build jokes from personal stories, the British lean on dry understatement, and Korean shows thrive on slapstick and quick-witted banter. **How well does your country's style of comedy suit you, and is there a foreign style you love or just can't get into?**

5 With artificial intelligence producing creative writing, scripts, and even jokes, **to what extent do you think AI can replicate genuine comedic timing, irony, and human vulnerability? Could an AI ever truly replace human comedians?**

SAY IT BETTER

Upgrade what you'd normally say.

Everyone my age loved that show.	→	That show **struck a chord with** my generation.
I'd act like it wasn't a big deal.	→	I'd just **make light of** the whole thing.
I like silly word jokes too much.	→	I have **a weakness for** terrible puns.
That joke doesn't work in English.	→	That joke **gets lost in translation**.
My jokes have caused me problems.	→	My jokes have **landed me in hot water**.

Should the law ban ticket resale for profit?

1 SITUATION

A proposed law would make it illegal to resell tickets to concerts and shows above face value. Supporters say it would stop resellers from pricing out genuine fans. Opponents contend that whoever buys a ticket is free to sell it at any price.

2 TWO SIDES

Choose a side. If one side is empty, assign teams randomly. Everyone must speak twice. The larger side goes first. First, explain your own view. Then, speak again in reverse order and respond to what you heard.

A FANS BEFORE PROFIT

"A seat should go to a devoted fan, not simply to the highest bidder."

Resellers hoard seats and charge exorbitant prices. A fan who cannot attend could still resell at face value.

B LET THE MARKET DECIDE

"Once a ticket is paid for, selling it is a private matter between adults."

Nobody is forced to buy, and market forces set a fair price. An unenforceable ban would only expose buyers to more fraud.

3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Ask a question that could make the other side reconsider its position. Then, be ready to answer their question.

ASK SIDE A

1 How would a ban be enforced when most resale happens privately online?

2 If rare sneakers can be resold for profit, why should tickets be different?

3 How would police tell a scalper from a fan who can't go?

ASK SIDE B

1 Why should resellers profit from an artist's years of hard work?

2 How would you protect buyers from fake tickets without regulation?

3 If only wealthy fans can attend, what happens to fan culture?

4 FINAL ROUND

FINAL POSITION	What did you think at the start? What do you think now, and why?
MVP VOTE	Who made the strongest point? Name the person and explain why.

KEY EXPRESSIONS

face value
: the original price printed on a ticket

exorbitant
: much higher than is fair or reasonable

price out
: to charge so much that someone cannot afford it

market forces
: the effect of supply and demand on prices

the highest bidder
: the person who offers the most money for something

unenforceable
: (of a law or rule) impossible to make people obey