

The Humor Scale

Humor is part of how we connect with each other. When the group plan or collective goal is learning, it's especially important to look for clues that help you figure out the right level of humor so the group can continue to move forward, and you can continue to learn as part of a group. It can be really tricky to figure out when it's a time for humor and when it's time to be more serious.

This scale can help you figure out what the clues you're observing mean so you can make a smart guess about the level of humor that is expected. Use the clues you can see and hear and what you know about situation (the time, place and people) including facial expressions, body language, tone of voice and words. Note: If you're not sure who to gather clues from, your teacher's actions and reactions are often your biggest indicator of the level of humor that is expected for the group plan or situation.

Level	CLUES	EXPECTED HUMOR FOR THE SITUATION
5 Humor is a NO	<p>People have a serious face and tone of voice. They're not smiling or laughing at all. You recognize this as a serious time that will likely not lead to a silly moment soon.</p> <p>When you try and add your humor, people may ignore you or make a negative comment.</p>	No humor is expected here. You're expected to have a serious face or tone. If you use humor, it will cause the others to feel frustrated/mad.
4	<p>People have a serious face and tone of voice. No smiling or laughing.</p> <p>When you add your humor people may laugh quickly, give you a negative look, and then try and change the subject.</p>	No humor is expected here. If you use humor, it may cause others to feel annoyed or frustrated.
3 Humor is a WHOA	<p>They may use a quick bit of humor, or give a quick smile, then change back to a serious moment.</p> <p>When you add your humor, people may laugh quickly, but in general, people are trying to stay on topic.</p>	A smile and a small joke may be expected. Lots of laughing, or adding big jokes is unexpected.
2	<p>People are smiling or laughing some.</p> <p>When you add your humor, they give a friendly response- smiling. They may say something silly and then shift back to the group plan.</p>	Smiling, maybe a quick laugh. It may be expected to add a humor but be careful you're not telling the same joke over and over.
1 Humor is a GO	<p>People are smiling or laughing.</p> <p>When you add your humor, they give a friendly response - tone of voice sounds happy, and there is smiling or laughing. They may be sharing something funny too.</p>	Smiling, laughing. Sharing humor. Because this isn't usually the situation in the classroom for long, look for clues that the plan is shifting into a more serious learning time.