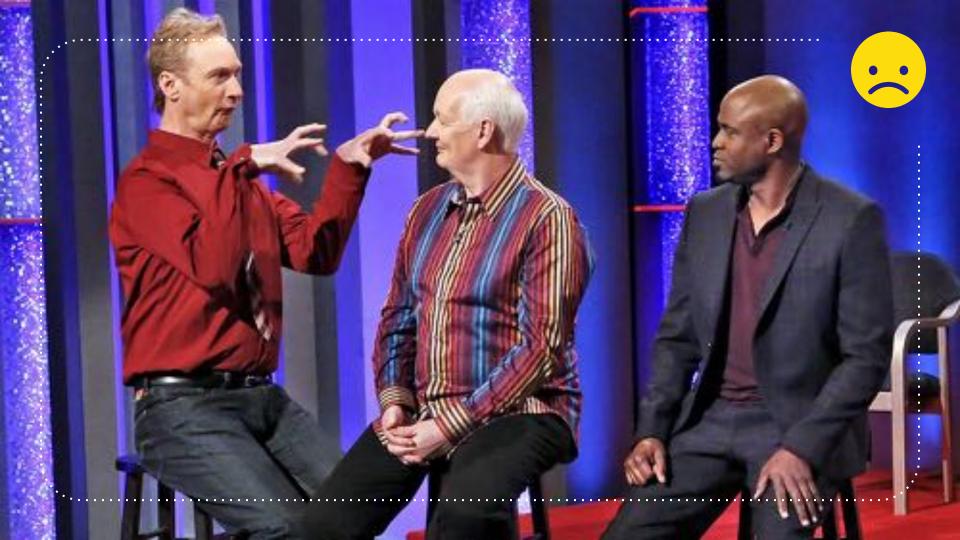
# How to Be Funny (...even if you're not)

Comedy-inspired copywriting tips for ecommerce owners + marketers



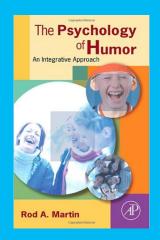




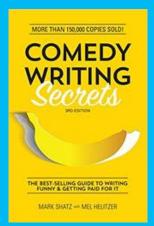






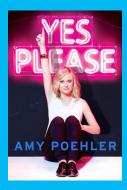




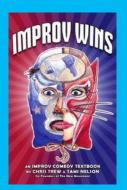


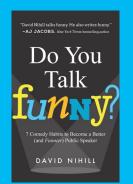
















#### funny copywriter





All

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Videos

News

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Tools

About 1,730,000 results (0.41 seconds)

#### Punchline Conversion Copywriting

https://www.punchlinecopy.com/ \*

Knock knock. Who's there? A shitload of money! It's science that laughing makes us feel good. But why would you want your clients or customers to laugh at you? Humor activates parts of the brain associated with happiness and fulfillment (Harvard, 2010). When your customers associate your business with "having a great ...

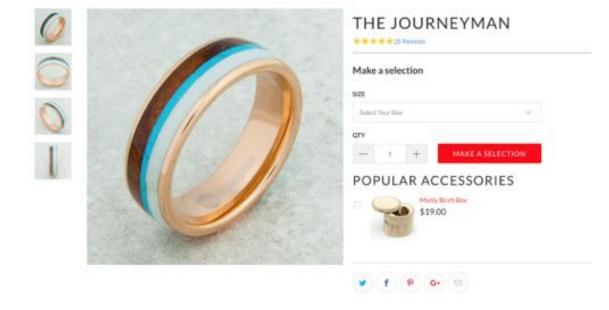
Shooping

Work With Punchline - About - Blog - Watch + Read





# If your copy doesn't use humor, you're not getting the results you deserve

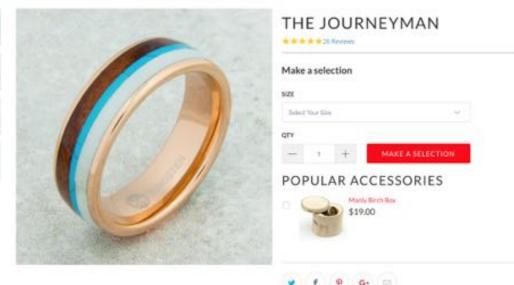


#### THE DETAILS

"Grandpa, where did you get that dope ring, and can we have it?" - Your future heirs.

Meet The Journeyman: one of our favorite rings here at Manly Bands.







Add to Cart +196%

Purchases +20%



#### THE DETAILS

We can't legally tell you that John Wayne wore this ring (because it's not true and also he died before we started Manly Bands), but we're pretty sure he would have.

The Cowboy is a Stetson-hatted nod to the good of days — when all you needed was a reliable horse, a jug of whiskey, and the starry night sky as your blanket.

It's a little bit woodsy and a little bit dark. It's basically a Bon Iver song in ring form, so you can just wear it instead of having to learn to play guitar.

Smell that? It's the smoldering embers of your love. And it's beautiful.





Add to Cart +17%

Purchases +98%

### I'm gonna show you...

1. WHY humor affects us

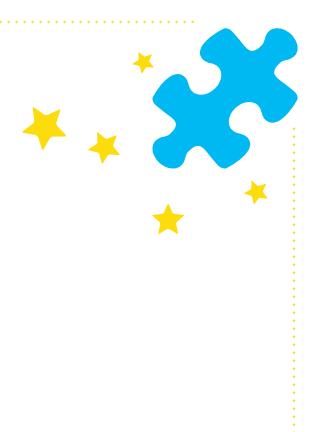
### I'm gonna show you...

- 1. WHY humor affects us
- 2. WHERE to use humor to best effect

### I'm gonna show you...

- 1. WHY humor affects us
- 2. WHERE to use humor to best effect
- 3. HOW to punch up your copy line by line

# WHY humor affects us





Joking makes us vulnerable



Past experiences make us wary



Work is serious... right?





We don't want to offend

Dear horrible friends,

Cards Against Humanity here with another attempt to take your money. Time is running out to get in on this year's holiday hoopla, Eight Sensible Gifts for Hanukkah.



Thanks for signing up for Cards Against Humanity's Ten Days or Whatever of Kwanzaa. Throughout the month of December, we will mail you 10 or whatever gifts on 10 different days.



### How humor works in the brain

 Activates parts of the brain associated with happiness + fulfillment



### How humor works in the brain

Alleviates anxiety + releases tension

### **Goal state**



## **Play state**





# Don't make your reader feel like you're a taskmaster

### Unbounce



Oh, hi there.

Kieran here, your Unbounce CDO (that's Chief Discount Officer).

#### I made you an important video.



How about that sweet deal, amiright?



"People who use [humor], particularly in stressful or seemingly one-down positions, are viewed as being on top of things, being in charge and in control, whether they are in fact or not."

- Martha Craumer, Harvard Communication Letter

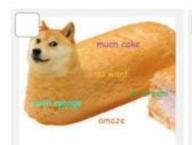


### How to pick your humor topic

- Customer research is your friend here!
- Ask your users what they like

#### Which meme is funniest?







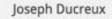


Cheezburger



dat boi







Philosoraptor



Ermagerd

### **Mapistry**





Ryan,

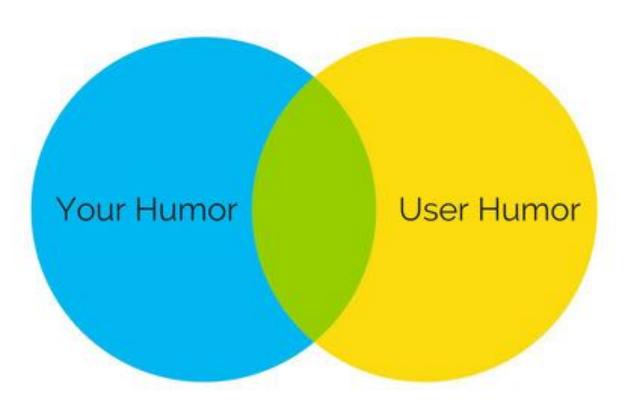
**Mapistry** 

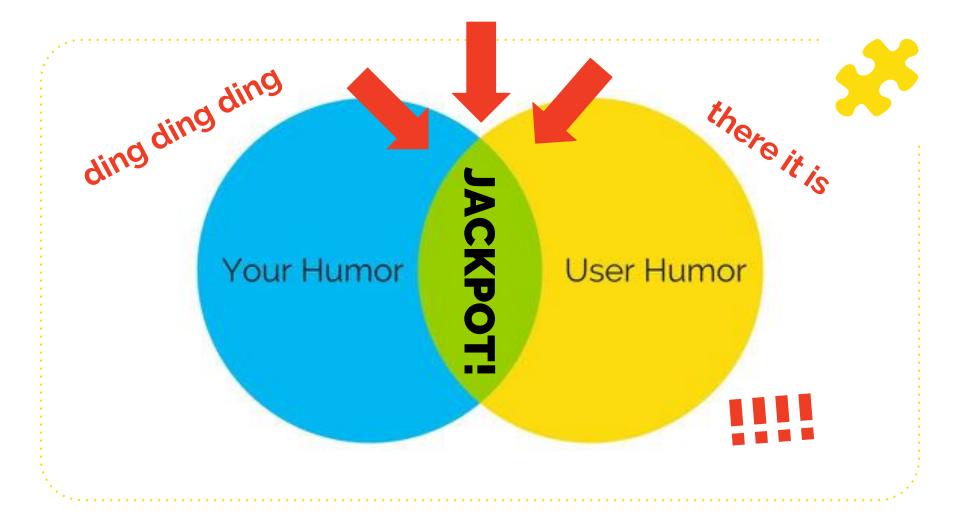
Wow! Thank you! Awesome newsletter! You rock the stormwater world! Love the Wednesday kitty too! Enjoy and keep having fun ©



# Look for patterns + preferences









### How to pick your humor style

There are 2 failsafe humor styles:



Our environment = Observation



Ourselves = Self-deprecation



#### Observational humor



Hi Lianna,

Your savings should be there when you need it most. Like that time you bought a coffee, and it cost you \$5 — plus \$35 in overdraft fees.

Starting today, you can turn on Low Balance Protection and worry less about overdrafts. With Low Balance Protection, Digit will automatically replenish your bank account balance if it dips below a certain level. It's another way that Digit has your back. Goodbye, overdrafts.





### Self-deprecating humor



Yep, this is an extremely low-tech way to track your follow-ups, but it works, especially if you tackle it on a regular, scheduled basis.

I should know - it's how I started out.



And just look at me now!



### RECAP >



# WHERE to use humor





NEVER in your value proposition



- NEVER in your value proposition
- SOMETIMES in your landing pages and website copy



- NEVER in your value proposition
- SOMETIMES in your product pages and website copy
- ALWAYS in your content, emails, + microcopy



- ALWAYS in your emails + microcopy
- Yes! Even transactional emails! Even in the tiny spots that "no one will notice"!

#### **Manly Bands**

#### SHIPPING & RETURNS

- Real F\*\*\*in Classy Shipping— Snugged up in a velvet ring box & delivered insanely fast by rugged outdoorsman and/or USPS
- 30 Day No-Hassle Returns & One-Year Warranty Don't dig it, or need another size? Ain't no thing but a wedding ring. We got you.

• Real F\*\*\*in Classy Shipping — Lovingly bundled in a velvet ring box & delivered insanely fast by nuclear drone and/or USPS

• Real F\*\*\*in Classy Shipping — Snugged up in a velvet ring box & delivered insanely fast by thoroughbred racehorse and/or USPS

#### Whoops!

404 - Page not found

One of our Development Team must be punished for this unacceptable failure!



In a forgiving mood? Let them all keep their jobs.

Return to the homepage.

What if I told you...

The entire world was nothing but a lie that had been pulled over your eyes to blind you?

That you were a slave? And that I had the truth?



Well, you'd break into a cold sweat, and you'd keep listening...

And once I mentioned that life as you knew it was actually **bondage**, **prison** — and that the Matrix was **Wonderland**, a **deep rabbit hole** ripe for exploration...

Well, you'd probably decide to take the red pill and stick around.



But if I told you...

"Hey, I've got a brand-new, high-quality, reality-based solution to replace your substandard day-to-day experience!"

# HOW to punch up your copy





### **3** categories of Punchups

- 1. Show your emotions
- 2. Piss off your grammar teacher
- 3. Lead the way





#### Write in ALL CAPS



Ahh the never ending chores. The dishes. The tidying up after the kids. The laundry. Oh for crying out loud, the LAUNDRY! Want to save a bit of your sanity and give your kids a life skill they'll use forever? Get them to help with the laundry! And by teaching them early, you're planting seeds of knowledge that even some college students don't yet have down. Your kiddos can be child-geniuses!

Rockin' Green

#### Choose comic book words





### Hey Lianna, your Purple order is confirmed.

\*Awesome explosion noise\* Get ready for the most comfortable time of your life!



### Make "asides"

#### Confirm your awesomeness/your subscription.

Yes, subscribe me to this list.

If your spouse signed you up as a stinky hint, or if you accidentally signed up while sleepinterneting, or if you simply received this email by mistake, just delete it. You won't be subscribed if you don't click the confirmation link above (but we might cry a little).



Hi Lianna,

Sorry to hear your password has gone missing! (It happens to the best of us.)

Here is a link to reset it: https://www.warbyparker.com/account/reset-password/qycheyvqqaks-ins98kcrv1zokg10ejiubf5ep1eeai

Thanks!

The Warby Parker team



We got your order (thank you!), and we're getting it ready to ship it out. Because of the holiday weekend (remember to wear sunscreen!), orders may take a little longer than usual to process. We'll send out your package ASAP.



### Use GIFs + emoji



Hi Alli,

Airstory users are amazing! We've had so many great ideas and suggestions submitted to us since we launched in February.

Thank you, and keep 'em coming!

Today we're releasing two big new features into your account:





MeUndies

#### Aw yeah!

Your first Soapbox video is lookin' squeaky clean. Way to go.







Hi Alli,

Reminder to add your sync for today.

This is a friendly reminder to add your sync for today in time for this reminder in your profile page

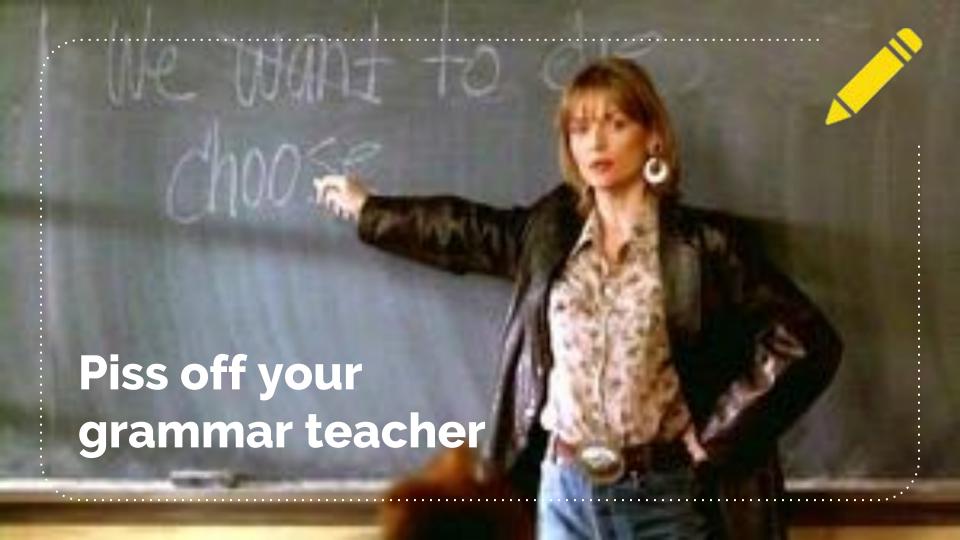
You can change the

profile page.

Add My Sync

Sincerely, The Team

This email was sent by: @



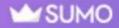


## (POYGT)

You're definitely not gonna forget that one



#### **Make mistakes**





### We just made your website faster

"I wanna go fast." (-Ricky-Bobby Your friends at Sumo.

Today, we're making Sumo faster on your site — and laying the foundation for more speed improvements this year.

Introducing the brand-new Sumo embed code.



#### Moar new speakers - BoS Europe and BoS USA. Creativity hangout today.



Mark Littlewood, BoS Conference <markl@businessofsoftware.org> to me ▼



# Contract + abbreviate words



Hi Lianna,

How is it going? When we were posting update on your following social profile we noticed that the token for this profile has expired. It means that we will not be able to post further updates until you reconnect that account.

Hi Lianna,

How is it going?

profile we noticed
that we will not be
account.





#### 2.5 million water bottles outta landfills



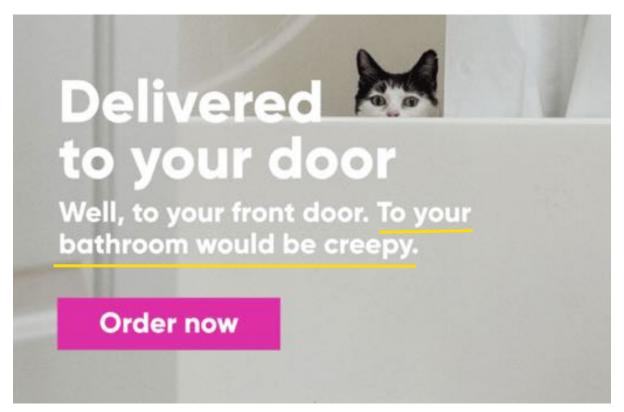


### Simple abbrevs you can use

- Gonna (going to)
- Sposed to (supposed to)
- Doncha (don't you)
- Hafta (have to)
- Jelly (jealous)
- Totes (totally)



## Chop up your sentences



Who Gives a Crap





Hi there,

Awww yeah.

Big news today.

Can you smell the disruption?

What the heck are we talking about?

We're excited cuz the White House is launching an innovation office per Politico.

**CBInsights** 

# RECAP >







## Ask + answer questions



You can purchase all of our bestselling exclusive products without a subscription: <u>Dropps Detergent Pacs</u>, <u>Dropps Oxi Booster Pacs</u>, <u>Scent Booster Pacs</u>, and <u>Dish Detergent Pacs</u>.

The best part? We're giving you 20% off your order today with code:

TWENTYXX

TextExpander will expand your abbreviations as you type them by default. For example, if you type "ssig" to insert your signature in an email, your signature snippet will appear immediately.

What if you don't want immediate snippet expansion?

#### **Use Delimiters**



Want us to show you, not tell you? Watch our <u>Fill-in Snippets</u> video.



## Trail off with ellipses



As a Brain.fm subscriber, you might've wondered why you haven't heard from us with new updates in a while.

Well, we've been deep in the trenches, brainstorming and implementing ways to improve the entire user experience. And today, we're happy to share some good news with you...

Announcing: Latest Updates In Our Ongoing Quest To Improve Brain.fm



### Include a call to action



#### We've sent you data!

Rawri We spotted your tweet and the bears have added an extra 1GB of free data to your account? You'll be able to use this data until the end of the month.



Need even more data?

Upgrade My Bear!

Have something else to rawr about? Contact one of our friendly Support Bears.



TunnelBear



#### **New Small Batch designs!**

Our last Small Batch release was so popular, that we decided to throw caution/calendars to the wind and #bless the world with even more Small Batch amazingness. Available right this very instant, good people!

#### **COOL NOW GIVE ME SMALL BATCH!**

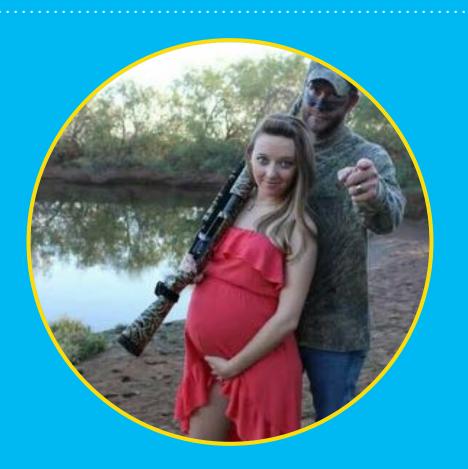


Hi Alli,

Take a peek into our musings, momentum, and March updates.

Take a look inside

Cheers, Team



# RECAP >

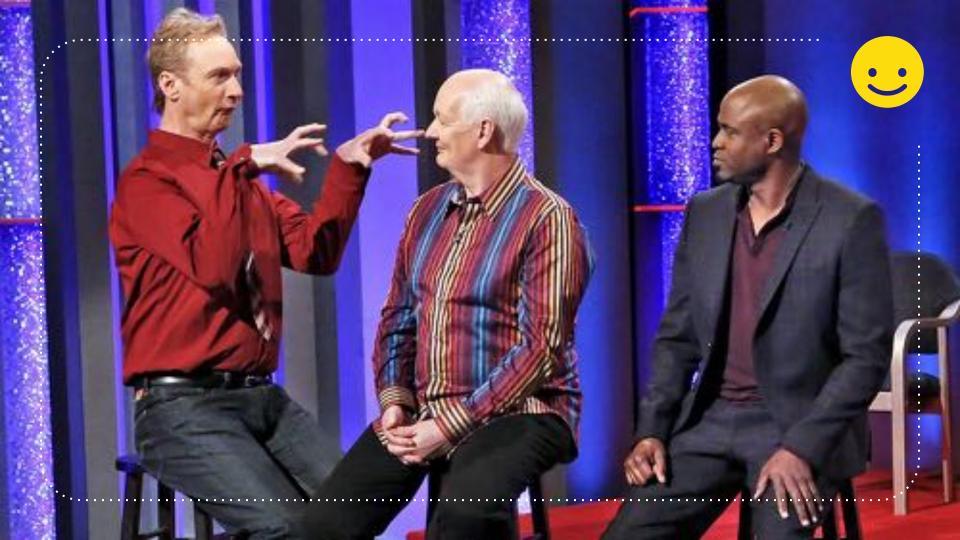






- Use humor in emails, content, + microcopy
- Aim for observational and/or self-deprecating humor
- Punch up your copy line by line





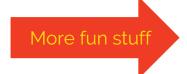


# Thanks!

### I'm Lianna Patch,

a big dork who writes copy for SaaS and ecommerce.

Find me at @punchlinecopy + right in front of your face right now



punchlinecopy.com/cj2018