

COMIC STRIP STRUCTURE

A JOKE HAS FOUR PARTS AND A STRIP HAS FOUR PANELS

A. SITUATION

B. SET-UP

C. SURPRISE

D. COMEBACK



SHOWS WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, ETC.



DIRECT'S READER'S EXPECTATION AWAY FROM COMING SURPRISE, OFTEN THROUGH DOUBLE ENTENDRE.



REVERSAL OF FORTUNE, UNEXPECTED TWIST.



REACTION TO THE SURPRISE, ITS MEANING, ITS IRONY. OFTEN THE FUNNIEST PART.

IT MAY BE WISEST TO WRITE THESE IN THE ORDER A, C, B, D — CHOOSE A SITUATION + SURPRISE, THEN TRY TO COME UP WITH A MISDIRECTING SETUP AND FINALLY A RESPONSE.

JUST AS WE STRETCH AND SQUASH OUR CHARACTERS FOR EFFECT, JOKES CAN BE STRETCHED OR SQUASHED TOO:

"PIE GUY"

