



The Telegraph

How technology killed off the art of joke telling

It's certainly no laughing matter but our proud tradition of joke telling is being killed off by technology.

Emails, social networking sites and internet video clips have

replaced the time-honoured tradition where schoolchildren, work colleagues or friends would ask each other 'have you heard the one about...'

High-tech humour has taken over to such an extent that one in three adults does not know a single gag, while 18 per cent know only one.

And nearly half said they would like to be able to tell more jokes but can never remember the punchline.

The findings emerged in a poll of 2,000 people by Costa Coffee to launch the Costa Light Comedy Challenge.

The study also found one in ten said they don't like being the centre of attention so avoid

telling gags in public.

One in 20 said they get embarrassed when explaining a joke while the same number claim they are never in the right mood to tell a funny tale.

Cringingly, 68 per cent of Brits have received a look of bemusement after telling a joke.

It also emerged 13 per cent prefer to share funny anecdotes via email and one in twenty likes to tell jokes via social networking sites.

One quarter said funny clips on the internet are more likely to amuse them than old-fashioned jokes.

Researchers also found 20 per

cent believe it is easier to text or email a joke as it 'prevents you looking stupid if you get it wrong'.

believe that a sense of humour is the best attribute that Britons possess.

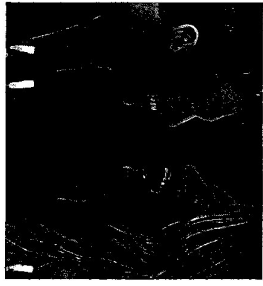
And nearly half believe that their friends' updates on Facebook and Twitter to being told a joke in person.

And over 20 per cent prefer

Facebook and Twitter to being told a joke in person.

The most popular people to share jokes with are friends and family - only nine per cent would crack a joke with their

boss and just two per cent would tell a joke to a neighbour.



This year's winner Nick Helm

If you want to learn some jokes, Edinburgh's Fringe festival is the place to go. Here are some of the best jokes from this summer's festival according to TV channel Dave.

Nick Helm - "I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White

and the Seven Dwarves."

Tim Vine - "Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."

Hannibal Buress - "People say 'I'm taking it one day at a time.' You know what? So is everybody. That's how time works."

Tim Key - "Drive Thru McDonalds was more expensive than I thought ... once you've hired the car ..."

Matt Kirshen - "I was playing chess with my friend and

he said, 'Let's make this interesting'. So we stopped playing chess."

Alan Sharp - "I was in a band which we called *The Prevention*, because we hoped people would say we were better than *The Cure*."

Andrew Lawrence - "I admire these phone hackers. I think they have a lot of patience. I can't even be bothered to check my OWN voicemails."

DeAnne Smith - "My friend died doing what he loved ... Heroin."

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