

# Funny Comics: Where to put a punchline

This activity teaches kids about how punchline placement in a comic changes the nature of a visual joke. This activity includes a visual demonstration and hands-on activity.

## Step 1:

Print out this whole packet for the educator.

## Step 2:

Print out activity sheets for each students (pages 4-5)

## Step 3:

Demonstrate the activity using the instructions.

## Step 4:

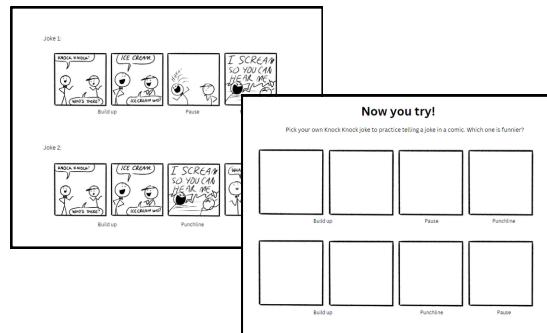
Provide a collection or list of knock knock jokes to students

## Step 5:

Let kids draw their own knock knock jokes!

# What You'll Need:

Print outs of the activity sheets  
below (pages 4-5)



Drawing utensils of choice



A deflated balloon



If you enjoyed this activity, share it  
with me on Instagram!



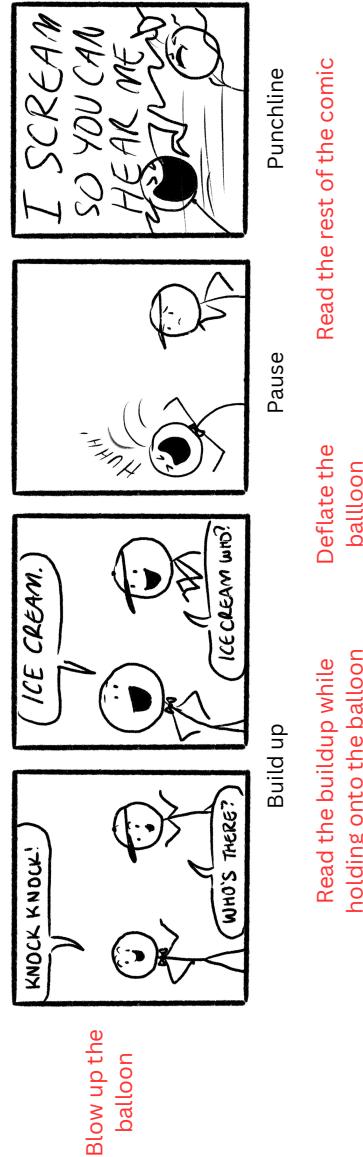
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# Instructions for the educator:

Imagine that telling a joke is like blowing up a balloon. The more you build the joke up, the bigger you blow up the balloon. Now imagine that the moment you pause before or after a joke is like letting the air out of the balloon. In a comic, you can change how a joke lands by changing when to metaphorically “let the air out of the balloon.” Below are two examples of the same jokes. The first example has a pause *before* the punchline. The second has a pause *after* the punchline. To demonstrate this activity follow the steps below. (Warning, balloons may pose a choking hazard to young children.)

1. Blow up your balloon (pinch the balloon closed with your fingers, don't tie it.)
2. Read the first comic strip “build up” portion
3. When the comic says “pause” let the air out of your balloon (don’t let go of your balloon or it will fly away!)
4. After the air leaves (making a funny noise) read the punchline.
5. Blow the balloon up again and repeat, this time, letting the air out after the punchline and before the “pause”
6. Discuss with the class how the air leaving the balloon at different parts of the joke changed it. Which one worked better? Which one was funnier?
7. Provide a collection of knock knock jokes to kids. Let them pick their own joke to recreate the activity with. Remind them they can draw simple stick figures if they want. The art is less important than the joke! Kids can have you blow up the balloon and deflate it along to their own comics to test them.

Joke 1:



Joke 2:



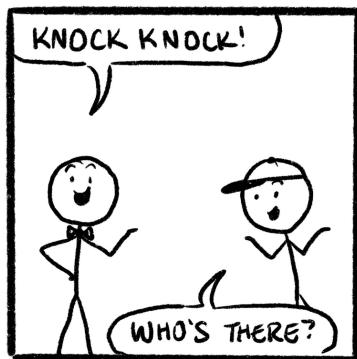
Pause  
Deflate the balloon  
onto the balloon

Pause  
Finish reading

Pause

Read build up and punchline while holding onto the balloon

Joke 1:



Build up

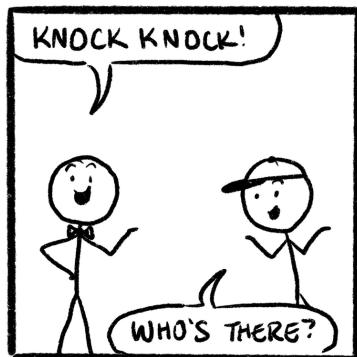


Pause



Punchline

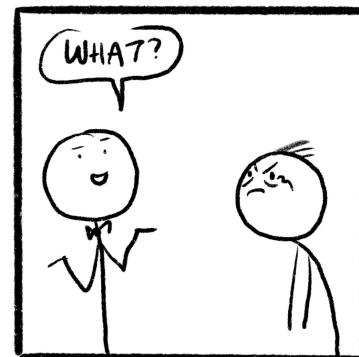
Joke 2:



Build up



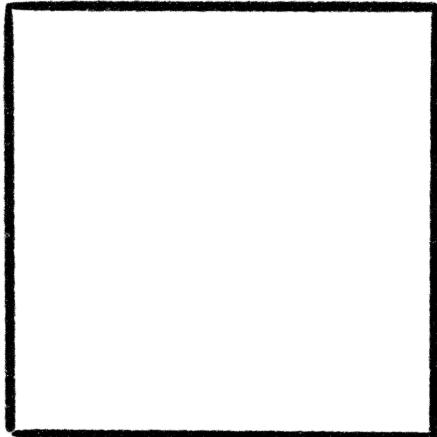
Punchline



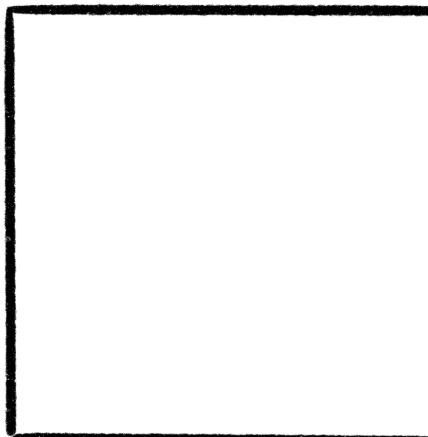
Pause

# Now you try!

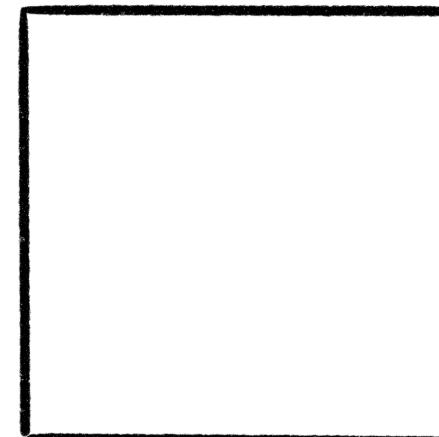
Pick your own Knock Knock Joke to turn into two comic strips.



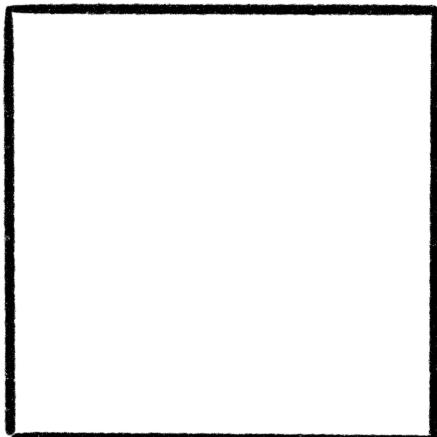
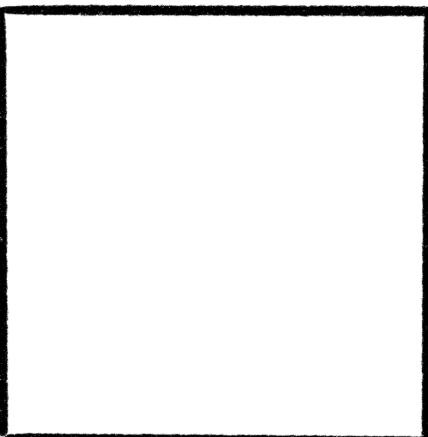
Build up



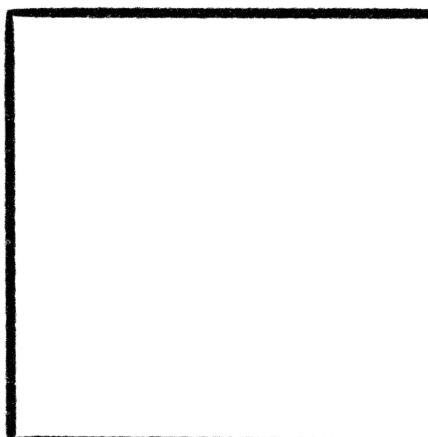
Pause



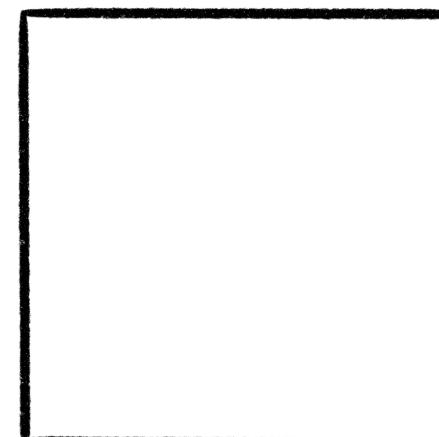
Punchline



Build up



Punchline



Pause

