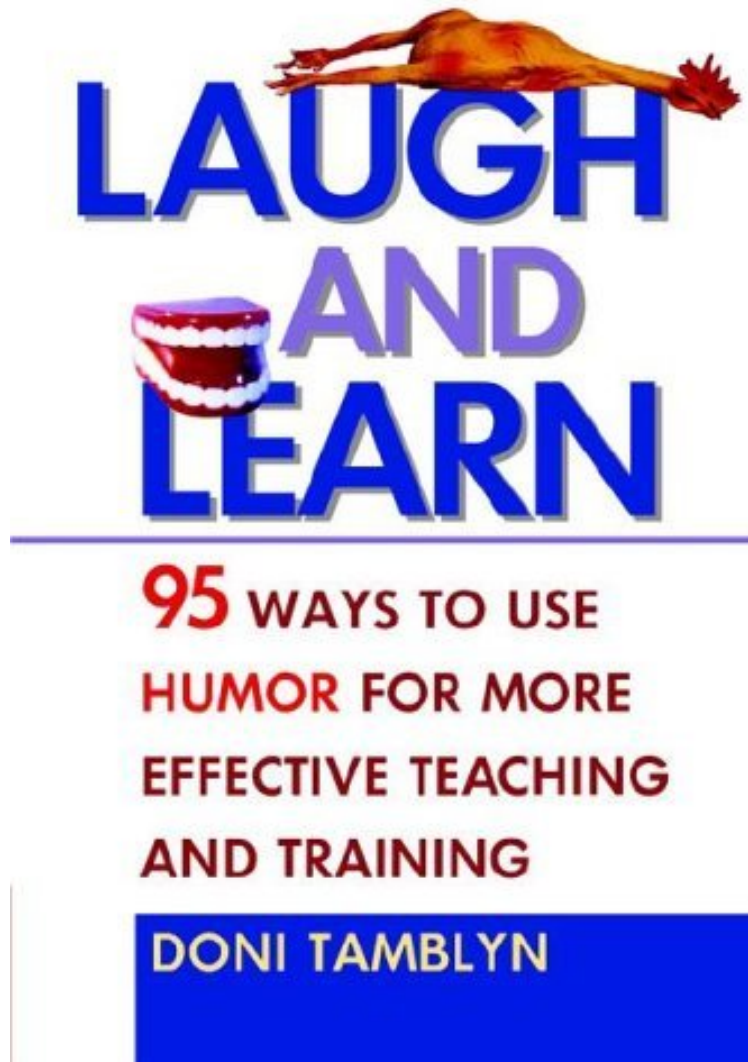


# Laugh and Learn: 95 Ways to Use Humor for More Effective Teaching and Training

*Doni Tamblyn*

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**Doni Tamblyn : Laugh and Learn: 95 Ways to Use Humor for More Effective Teaching and Training** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Laugh and Learn: 95 Ways to Use Humor for More Effective Teaching and Training:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Just rightBy AleinadThis is a little masterpiece. Writing about humor is surprisingly difficult. There are, on the one hand, academic papers so dry they put you off laughing for weeks. There are also authors who try so hard to be funny it makes one feel sad. Doni Tamblyn manages to write a book that

is intelligent, useful and tastefully funny. It is the best possible illustration of the role of humor in the learning process. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Practical, enjoyable and funny!!! By Rod Matthews [VIDEOID:moQTFN44TDS4UO] Doni Tamblyn talks about some of the tools in her book in this interview with Rod Matthews. For more information visit [...]. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must for teachers/trainers By Mandy Kotzman I wish I could just put this volume under my pillow and absorb its wisdom. It is a great resource for ideas about making education effortless and fun (at least for those on the receiving end if the teachers can put it into practice). Anyone involved in teaching or training should at least read it, but preferably master the approach.

We may not all be born comedians, but most people are naturally humorous, says Doni Tamblyn, a comic-turned-trainer whose humorous techniques bring serious results at clients such as Chevron, Wells Fargo, and other Fortune 500 companies, universities, and government entities. While *Laugh and Learn* offers plenty to keep smiles on the faces of trainers and their students, it's not a collection of one-liners and knock-knock jokes. It's an enlightening and practical look at how teachers and training professionals can inject elements of entertainment, creativity, humor, and emotion into their existing methods, even when dealing with serious or technical topics. Filled with fun, challenging, and thought-provoking exercises to help readers feel more comfortable being funny, the book also provides dozens of workshop activities and techniques to introduce humor into the learning environment. Combining the latest brain studies and humor research with the author's own 23 years of experience in comedy and corporate training, *Laugh and Learn* is a fascinating look at what makes learners perk up, pay attention -- and remember!

An entertaining and practical book chock-full of tips, techniques, anecdotes, and exercises that show anyone how to use humor well. -- Dr. Joel Goodman, Director, The HUMOR Project, Inc., Saratoga Springs, NY Combining learning and laughing is not easy, but Doni does it brilliantly (and with integrity). Highly recommended! -- Eric Jensen, author, *Teaching with the Brain in Mind* I read the book twice! -- Applied Improvisation Network 2004 Should be required reading for anyone involved in teaching or training. (I wish some of my teachers had read it.) -- Malcolm Kushner, AFHC, author, *Public Speaking for Dummies* Malcolm Kushner, AFHC, author, *Public Speaking for Dummies* From the Publisher According to the latest studies in adult learning theory, an environment that encourages spontaneity and a sense of humor can increase knowledge retention considerably. Successful trainers are beginning to realize that getting participants relaxed enough to become engaged in the subject matter -- and even have a little fun with it -- can produce serious results. In *LAUGH AND LEARN*, author Doni Tamblyn draws on her experience working with Fortune 500 clients such as Chevron Corp and Wells Fargo Bank to show how teachers and training professionals can inject elements of emotion, humor, and creativity into their programs in order to spark engagement and understanding in their classes and training sessions. If anyone should know about the use of comedy in a classroom setting, it's Tamblyn. Having started as a professional stand-up comedienne, she first came into the world of training when hired by the State of California to teach traffic school. Surprisingly, she and her staff of 48 professional comics did not tell jokes! Instead, they facilitated fun games that let their learners wrestle and play with the curriculum, think creatively about it -- and get laughs from each other. The response to the program was overwhelming -- one student even asked if he needed to get another ticket in order to come back -- and it was from that experience that Tamblyn realized just how much an intelligent use of humor could facilitate adult learning. Since then, Tamblyn has made a name for herself working with major organizations, becoming a frequently requested speaker at training conferences, and sharing a stunning revelation: that even trainers who don't consider themselves to be naturally funny can use humor to draw participants in, help them think fast on their feet, and problem solve creatively. In *LAUGH AND LEARN*, Tamblyn demonstrates with wit and keen insight how educators must foster a sense of intrinsic motivation among learners, getting them in on the act themselves and encouraging their own personal involvement in the material. The book is packed with 95 practical "rules," including: \* Don't try to be funny -- just try to have fun \* Focus out, not in -- and let participants get in on the act \* Use positive humor, and avoid sarcasm like the plague \* Always acknowledge the "Bomb" (when humor falls flat) *LAUGH AND LEARN* features dozens of exercises and thought-provoking games, as well as a special One-A-Day Plan on how trainers can boost their own Humor Quotient. Filled with ideas, tips, and valuable information, *Laugh and Learn* is a smart, one-of-a-kind book no trainer should be without. From the Author Most teachers and trainers believe, either from research or gut instinct, that humor helps people learn better. Relatively few, however, give much time to building this very easy skill. One reason is that they don't think humor is a "skill" that can be "built." Humor is a gift, they believe. Either you're born with it or you're not. They're almost right. In actual fact, humor is a gift -- and you, I, and everyone else, was born with it. Another reason teachers and trainers resist using humor is because of the possible negative repercussions. Maybe they will "bomb." Maybe they will inadvertently make an inappropriate joke. Maybe their topic is too serious for humor. Maybe a humorous, playful audience will be too hard to control. Some of these fears are well-founded. Most, as you will see in reading this book, are not. Perhaps the most immediate cause for reticence is the simple fact that professional development costs money. When it comes to allocating scarce funds, one has to think carefully. Sure, speakers' and trainers' evaluation scores

may go up when they use humor -- but will their listeners actually remember better? Score higher on exams? Do better on the job? Is there any proof that humor actually improves learning? Aren't we safer using the budget to build the currently-needed technical skills rather than training trainers to be funny? This book is written to provide a low-risk, affordable way for teachers, trainers, and speakers to start putting humor to work for themselves. In the process, however, I freely confess that I hope to lead ALL communicators to an appreciation of how humor can help them convey virtually any topic far more effectively, resulting in substantial long-term benefits for themselves, their listeners, and their organizations. I can promise you one thing: If you are a former child, you are a veritable treasure trove of humor. Share the wealth.