

WRITING TV COMEDY

Script Preparation

COMEDY IN SEQUENCES AND SCENES

- Compound Story Predicaments
- Stir up the character mix
- Mix and Match
 - Remember:
 - Escalation, Series Premise, Be Consistent

COMEDY IN DIALOGUE AND ACTIONS

- Building Jokes
 - Setup, then punch line

SETUPS

- Reasonable
 - Reels in audience
- Many Shapes & Forms
 - 2 Parts: Basic Premise and Development
- Spreading Out the Setup
 - Not like a standup comic

SETUPS

- No Hints
 - Ruins surprise
- Life is a setup
 - Universal miseries can be a setup
- Tension added by story
 - Comedic tension is boosted by dramatic tension

PUNCH LINES

- Last Things Last
- Don't Go Past The Joke
- Topping A Joke
 - Series of Punchlines
- Running Gags
 - Come Back to it over and over

FUNNY ACTIONS

- Mannerisms
- Stage Business
- A Take
- Slapstick
- Funny Sounds
- Alliteration
- Foreign Accents