

The Art of Witty Banter

by Patrick King

A printable to-do list of the most effective habits from this book. Check one off each day you do it.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

⁰¹ **Practice 'comedic timing' in low-stakes situations**

Callow: try one deadpan observation in your next casual conversation. Notice what works and what doesn't. Comedy is practice.

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⁰² **Learn the art of the callback**

Callow: in conversation, introduce a theme. Return to it later with a twist. The callback creates the sense of a shared world.

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⁰³ **Practice being the one who receives**

Callow: in one conversation today, be the audience. React generously. Notice how much better the other person becomes when properly received.

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⁰⁴ **Use misdirection - say the expected, then pivot**

Callow: set up an expectation in one sentence. Subvert it in the next. The surprise is the wit.

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⁰⁵ **Read comedians' timing**

Callow: watch stand-up comedy and pay attention to pauses. The timing of the silence is as important as the words around it.

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⁰⁶ **Throw one verbal ball today**

Callow: offer an observation that invites a response, not a reaction. See if you can create a two-beat exchange.