

Build a Sitcom Scene Using the 3-Act Structure

Objective:

Write a short comedy scene or sketch using the 3 Act Structure.

The 3-Act Structure in comedy:

- **Act 1 – Setup:** Introduce characters, the situation, and the comedic premise.
- **Act 2 – Escalation:** The problem or misunderstanding grows worse or weirder.
- **Act 3 – Punchline/Resolution:** A final twist, exaggerated payoff, or ironic ending.

Assignment

Using the template below write a **comedy scene (1–2 pages or a short sketch)** using the 3-act structure.

Choose from the examples below or create your own:

- A job interview goes completely off the rails.
- A couple tries to have a romantic dinner but keep getting interrupted.
- A character thinks their pet can talk—and tries to prove it.
- A group of friends gets stuck in an elevator on the way to a big event.
- A student lies about being sick to get out of a test—but their story spirals.

Template:

1. **Act 1 – Setup:**
 - Introduce the setting and main characters
 - Set up the conflict or misunderstanding
2. **Act 2 – Escalation:**
 - Add 2–3 complications
 - Build the absurdity, stakes, or awkwardness

3. Act 3 – Resolution:

- Deliver the punchline, twist, or ironic outcome
- Wrap it up with a memorable closing line

Reflection

What made the escalation funny?

- Did the twist or ending land well?
- How did structure help shape the joke?

Optional Extension:

Re-write the same story in a different order (e.g., start with the ending) to explore how structure affects the humour.