

## English vocabulary - WAYS OF LAUGHING

- **laugh:** express joy by making a sound, moving the face or body.  
*She splashed water on Nick and we all began **laughing**.*
- **chuckle:** laugh quietly, because you are thinking about something funny.  
*What are you **chuckling** about? I don't see anything funny.*
- **giggle:** laugh quietly and repeatedly because you are nervous or embarrassed.  
*She spilt the wine on the tablecloth and then **giggled** nervously at me.*
- **give somebody the giggles:** make somebody start giggling.
- **titter:** laugh quietly, unkindly at something embarrassing.  
*After she ended the lecture, she heard someone **tittering**.*
- **snigger (UK) / snicker (US):** laugh quietly, unkindly at something that is not supposed to be funny.  
*When the teacher tripped on the steps, the boys **sniggered**.*
- **roar / howl / shriek with laughter:** laugh very loudly.  
*It was such a good comedy that when it finished, he was still **roaring** with laughter.*
- **chortle:** give a loud chuckle of pleasure or amusement.  
*When I told her the joke, she started to **chortle** with delight.*
- **cackle:** laugh loudly in a high voice.  
*When I told her the joke, she started **cackling** and couldn't stop!*
- **guffaw:** laugh noisily.  
*They **guffawed** at what their baby had done.*
- **jeer:** laugh at somebody or shout unkind things at them.  
*The president was **jeered** by a crowd of protesters.*
- **burst into laughter:** suddenly start laughing.  
*The class **burst into laughter**.*
- **laugh your head off:** (informal) laugh a lot and loudly.  
*He told us a joke after another, and we **laughed our heads off!***
- **smile:** make one's mouth curve upwards, in order to be friendly or because one is happy.  
*As the boy left, he **smiled** at his mother and waved.*
- **beam:** smile very happily.  
*The mother looked at her son and **beamed** proudly.*
- **grin:** smile widely.  
*When she knew she had won the prize, she **grinned** broadly.*
- **simper:** smile in a silly and annoying way.  
*He **simpered** at the boys as he spoke.*
- **smirk:** smile in an unpleasant way, to show that you are pleased by somebody's bad luck.  
*The kids **smirked** when the teacher fell on the floor.*
- **sneer:** smile in an unkind way, showing no respect for somebody.  
*She **sneered** at his boyfriend's musical tastes.*

## Related idioms

- **laugh in somebody's face:** to behave in a way that shows no respect for others.  
*I told her my opinion and she just **laughed in my face**.*
- **be laughing all the way to the bank:** make a lot of money without making much effort.
- **somebody will be laughing on the other side of your face:** used to mean that although you are happy now, you will be in trouble later.
- **be laughed out of court (US):** be rejected because people think it is completely stupid.  
*His idea was **laughed out of court**.*
- **laugh up your sleeve:** be secretly happy because you played a trick on somebody or you criticized somebody without him knowing.
- **laugh something off:** pretend that something is less serious than it really is by laughing about it.  
*The president **laughed off** rumors that he would resign.*
- **laugh like a drain:** laugh heartily.  
*John liked my joke so much, he **laughed like a drain**.*