

Twenty Comic Masks

Which One are You?



	Comic Mask	Real World Example
1	The Stand-Up	Jerry Seinfeld, Amy Schumer
2	The Aggressor	Bill Burr, Chelsea Handler, Jim Jefferies, Bill Hicks, Whitney Cummings, Chelsea Handler
3	The Sad Sack	Richard Lewis, Rodney Dangerfield, Gary Shandling
4	The Druggie Rebel	Sam Kinison, Sandra Bernhard, Lenny Bruce, Kat Williams
5	The Intellectual	Jon Stewart, John Hodgman, Woody Allen, Mitch Hedberg, Steven Wright
6	The Socio-Political Satirist	Jon Stewart, George Carlin, Lewis Black, Chris Rock, Bill Maher
7	The Storyteller	Bill Cosby, Louis CK, Kevin Hart, Richard Pryor

8	The Rube	Larry the Cable Guy, Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White, Bill Engvall
9	The Old-Timer	George Burns, Mrs. Hughes
10	The Ethnic Type	George Lopez, Maz Jobrani, Aziz Ansari, Katt Williams
11	The Immigrant	Ricky Gervais, Maureen Murphy, Craig Ferguson
THE TEAM		
12	Partners	Smothers Brothers, Key & Peele, Penn & Teller
13	The Sketch Performer	Key & Peele, Monty Python, Kids in the Hall
14	The Ventriloquist	Jeff Dunham, Terry Fator, Triumph, The Insult Dog
THE ACTORS		
15	The Impersonator	Terry Fator, Jim Carrey, Kevin Pollack, Frank Caliendo
16	The Artists, Musicians, Cartoonists	Bo Burnham, Kevin Nealon, Zach Galifianakis, Jimmy Fallon
17	The Vaudevillian	Penn & Teller, The Flying Karamazov Brothers (Other Jugglers, Magicians and acrobats)
18	The Improvisors	Lily Tomlin, Jonathan Winters, Robin Williams

19	The Buffoon/The Airhead	Andrew “Dice” Clay, Larry the Cable Guy, Rita Rudner
20	The Prop Comic	Carrot Top, Gallagher,

Do you fit into any of these categories? Maybe you’re so unique you are creating your own? Wouldn’t that be exciting!

*Note: This is not a scientific study and some comedians can easily fit in multiple categories, this is just a guide and an example of character, persona and point of view through the ‘mask’ of the fictional character.

There’s a saying in writing, “Constriction enhances creativity.” Which means that when a writer has specific parameters to write within, the writing is more creative.

In comedy, when you have a well-defined character, the writing is almost easier because the character can drive the humor. With character you have an angle and a strong point of view.