

(Library ebook) Comedy Writing Self-Taught Workbook: More than 100 Practical Writing Exercises to Develop Your Comedy Writing Skills

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Gene Perret, Linda Perret  
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The companion workbook to *Comedy Writing Self-Taught*

## Comedy Writing Self-Taught WORKBOOK

More than 100 practical writing exercises  
to develop your comedy writing skills



**Gene Perret and Linda Perret**

Foreword by Terry Fator

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**Gene Perret, Linda Perret : Comedy Writing Self-Taught Workbook: More than 100 Practical Writing Exercises to Develop Your Comedy Writing Skills** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Comedy Writing Self-Taught Workbook: More than 100 Practical Writing Exercises to Develop Your Comedy Writing Skills:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Exercises to Complement COMEDY WRITING SELF-TAUGHT By Dr. C. J. Singh. Reviewed by C J Singh (Berkeley, CA). "Self-Taught Is the Best Taught": Perrets' Workbook Few years ago, I read Gene Perret's "Comedy Writing Workbook," published in 1994. The COMEDY WRITING SELF-TAUGHT WORKBOOK, published in 2014, retains only a few of the exercises of the earlier book.

This co-authored book is a briefer version, The WORKBOOK presents its exercises in five parts: Part One, General Joke Writing; Part Two, General Stand-Up Writing; Part Three, Writing for Your Mentor; Part Four, Sketch Writing; Part Five, Sitcom Writing. Here are a few sample exercises.

**General Joke Writing.** "A one-liner often is a factual statement with a joke attached to it. It's a straight line and a punchline: 'Ronald Reagan is one politician who never lied, cheated, or stole. He always had a agent who did that for him'" (Exercise 4, page 7).

**General Stand-Up Writing.** Suppose you are doing gags about mean bosses and "are on the subtopic of 'just how mean he is': 'I work for a mean boss. The guy has a black belt in management. Once he was out sick and the people in the office sent him a bouquet of Venus flytraps'." (Exercise 32, p 40).

**Sketch Writing:** Sketch introduces a premise (what's the sketch is about), has fun with the premise, and ends with more fun. Beginning of a sketch: "Two friends are walking along the street. Suddenly a mugger threatens them and demands all their money and their wallet. The second one, though, takes some money from his wallet, hands it to his friend, and says, 'Here's that \$20 I've owed you for a while.' Then he hands his wallet to the thief." The exercise is to develop the sketch by coming up with other events. (Exercise 81, page 84)

**Sitcom Writing:** Sitcom has a similar structure as a sketch, but differs in being longer and has established characters. As an example, the book presents an episode from *The Big Bang Theory*: "Penny wants to throw a surprise birthday party for Leonard, who has never had one. That's the A story. The B story is that Howard has to find some way to keep Leonard out of the apartment until the time of the party. The C story is that Penny has to take Sheldon to buy an appropriate gift for the birthday boy. All of these plots are related to one another" (Exercise 88, p 94).

**Comedy Writing Self-Taught Workbook** is an excellent introduction for beginning comedy writers with many sparkling jokes included. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Suzi Owen Scott  
I love the simplicity of the layout and the assignments provided. Definitely increased my skills.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **WARNING!**  
You'll have to work!  
By Daniel Jay  
You want to learn how to write comedy? You want to be pushed? Then this is the book for you. Many challenging assignment!

"Can you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?" "Practice, practice, practice." That's more than a joke; it's solid advice. Consider world-class performers in any field -- golf, figure skating, music, whatever. One thing you can safely say about each is that they achieved their level of skill through practice. To excel in any endeavor, you must work on and perfect your technique. Comedy writing is no exception. In this book, Emmy-winning TV writer and producer Gene Perret and professional writer Linda Perret have compiled a collection of over 100 comedy writing workouts that will challenge your joke writing skills and develop your sketch and sitcom writing abilities. This book suggests that talent is earned through observation, study, analysis, and repetition. The authors also encourage you to analyze your writing, discover where improvement is required, and create your own skill-creating exercises. The work can be demanding, but that's what it takes to become a success in any field, including comedy writing. If you study "Comedy Writing Self-Taught Workbook" -- with or without the companion volume, "Comedy Writing Self-Taught" -- when your break comes, you'll be ready.

**About the Author**  
Gene Perret taught himself to write comedy in the early 1960s by studying the technique and the writing style of the great comedians of the day, especially Bob Hope. This led to his writing comedy material for many nightclub performers, including Phyllis Diller and Slappy White. In 1968, Gene was signed to contribute to "The Beautiful Phyllis Diller Show." That led to a television career writing for "The Jim Nabors Hour," "Laugh-In," "The New Bill Cosby Show," "The Carol Burnett Show" and others. Later, he produced such hits as "Welcome Back Kotter," "Threes Company," and "The Tim Conway Show." Gene also worked with Bob Hope on all of his personal appearances and TV specials for 38 years, the last 12 of which he served as Hope's head-writer. Perret has won three Emmys and one Writers Guild Award. He is also a well respected teacher of comedy writing and is the author of over 45 books, including *The New Comedy Writing Step by Step* and *The Ten Commandments of Comedy*.  
Linda Perret has been involved in various aspects of comedy writing since she sold her first professional joke in 1990. She has written comedy for Bob Hope, Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, Yakov Smirnoff, Jimmie Walker and other stand-up comics. She's written comedy for the business world, adding a touch of humor to executive speeches and corporate award ceremonies. Linda has had three collections of joke books published and has been quoted in *Reader's Digest*, *The National Enquirer*, and *Arizona Highways*. Linda was nominated for a Writer's Guild award for her work on the writing staff of the television special, "Bob Hope -- the First 90 Years." Today, Linda supplies one-liners and comedy bits for ventriloquist Terry Fator and his cast of characters who perform at the Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas at the Terry Fator Theatre, and around the country.