

Over 100 Ways to Create a Culture of Fun!

Start with Yourself

1. Listen to something funny or upbeat on your way to work instead of news
2. Think of the toughest part of your work week and try to find some humor in it. Exaggerate it, compare it to doing something else, imagine doing it as a famous character
3. Tell colleagues about an embarrassing moment that happened to you
4. See if anyone can do an impression of you (be prepared for it to be funny)
5. Post a funny selfie online of you making a funny face instead of a serious picture
6. Point out your mistakes or mishaps before others find them: the coffee stain on your shirt, your mismatched socks, your bad hair day, your misspelled word, or your broken button
7. Do anything to show others you don't take yourself too seriously and it's ok to laugh at yourself. You set the tone!!!
8. Read emails at your desk in funny accents

Meetings:

9. Start the meeting with a quick fun go-around question like: "What is a guilty pleasure TV show, song, or movie?", "If you had a super power in your job what would it be?", "The weirdest thing you've eaten" etc. - Studies show it boosts problem solving & creativity!

10. "Role with It":

Get out of the normal meeting rut or spark creativity by assigning "roles" for your next meeting or brainstorming session! Try to give people a role that is opposite of the role they normally play in your meeting. You can find hats/props cheap online. Example Roles:

Queen/King: This person wears a crown and gets to run the meeting, while you take a back seat for once! (make it someone who could use the practice running a meeting or needs some empowerment)

Devil's Advocate: Give devil horns to wear and they must come up with opposing viewpoints. (Make this the person who is typically very agreeable and/or ambivalent)

Peace Keeper: Give them a hippie wig or an angel halo. Their job is to make sure everyone gets a chance to speak and they keep harmony at the meeting. Assign the person who typically talks too much in meetings this role

Rose Colored Glasses: This person will be optimistic and supportive of all ideas! Give them red tinted sun glasses and assign someone who is typically negative or confrontational

Wacky Idea Guy/Gal: Give them a funny hat (maybe one with a propeller). They are to come up with the craziest out of the box ideas they can. It is good to give this to someone who typically shoots down ideas without supplying their own or who is on the quiet side

Those are just a few ideas of roles to play, you can come up with your own! You can have your whole meeting like that or just use it to break the ice or brainstorm a topic!

11. Put funny quotes or jokes on your agenda!
12. Ad a “caption contest” picture or cartoon to the agenda with a prize for the best caption!
13. Play “Buzzword Bingo” during the meeting. (Make Bingo cards using overused work phrases that you know will come up and have a prize for who gets Bingo)
14. Name your meeting room and decorate accordingly
15. Try holding a meeting in a circle, on the floor, outside or standing up just for a change
16. Warm up: Give a fake word and give prize for the best definition (can even have them use it in a sentence)
17. Warm up: Have the group give fake work announcement/update one word at a time going around in a circle
18. Warm up: Have everyone describe how their week is going by what type of car it would be
19. Have a “Whine Tasting” section of the agenda where everyone gets 30 seconds of uninterrupted and overdramatic whining about a problem of their choice
20. Change the location of your meeting to somewhere fun
21. Have “Buzzword Penalties” to avoid overused words or phrases- person with most brings treats to the next meeting
22. Give your meeting a theme, from the agenda to the way you run it (movie, TV show, sports)
23. While you’re waiting for people to arrive, play music
24. Find a funny youtube video to end your meeting with each week

25. Add a “soapbox” section to the agenda and pass around a bar of soap for anyone to vent on their “soapbox” about something bothering them
26. Ask someone else to run the meeting and do their best impersonation of you
27. Use a funny code word people can shout out when the meeting has gone off track or if you’re beating a topic to death. (I’ve used “deviled eggs” before and there’s nothing like 5 people yelling “deviled eggs” at the same time in a meeting to get you back on track)!
28. Have a “pick your nose” meeting where people get to choose from a pile of costume noses (clown noses, animal noses, etc) to wear
29. Give the last person to arrive a standing ovation for no reason
30. Arm the group with nerf balls or paper wads to use when the last person arrives
31. Have a “speed meeting” and see how fast you can get through the agenda (only occasionally to save staff time)
32. Play music like at the Oscar’s when someone’s time is up for their presentation or update
33. Greet everyone at the door with an obnoxious smile and ‘high five’ with no explanation
34. Give a prize or candy to anyone who can recite the mission statement or any other piece of information about the company
35. Download a sound effects app and put someone in charge of doing sound effects for the meeting (clapping, drumroll, buzzer, etc)
36. Walk into the meeting dramatically to theme music

Your Work Environment:

37. Have a contest to name the copy machine or other highly used pieces of office equipment. The winner gets a cool prize! (Names like “The artist formerly known as Prints” or “Scandolf”)
38. Get a “joke a day” calendar for your desk or a common area
39. Make automatic responses to website or form emails humorous
40. Set a funny picture as your desktop background or screen saver
41. “Pun-kin Patch” Have a bunch of paper pumpkins in a break room or bulletin board and have people write puns on them & put them on the wall. Maybe a prize for the most creative!

42. Create a funny staff bulletin board with each employee making a funny face and a “fun fact” about them or pictures of them now vs. high school or baby photos
43. Have random items that make you laugh or smile on or in your desk. Right now at my desk I have a yodeling pickle, a fake tattoo sleeve, fake mustache/glasses, and a clown nose. You just never know when you’re gonna need this stuff!
44. Play music if you can
45. Bring a pet if you can. If not, have a funny picture of your pet at your desk
46. Have a funny quote, pun, cartoon, or joke on the outside of your work area that you change out every week
47. Put a large chalkboard up in a hallway or breakroom with colored chalk for people to draw with
48. Have funny signs instead of serious ones like a picture of Hans Solo in the bathroom that says “Wash Your Hans”
49. Have a dartboard or nerf basketball hoop in your office, breakroom, or common area
50. Put your recycle bin high up on the wall so you have to make a basket with your paper
51. Have a “Laughter Lounge” with silly putty, funny books/magazines, funny movies playing, games, etc
52. Make a “Just for Fun” bulletin board with cartoons, quotes, and funny pictures
53. Install a funny carnival style mirror near the bathrooms
54. Decorate or have items available based on funny “months” or “days” for example, September is national honey month

Team Engagement:

Some of these activities are at work and some outside of work. Outside of work activities are great for team dynamics, but must have more structure than a BBQ or Happy Hour, otherwise people will simply stay in their typical cliques and the event can negatively impact the team

55. Hold a game outside of work (kickball, softball, bowling, lasertag, etc). Divide teams according to your goals- some can cheer on and others can referee
56. Have staff create a gourmet meal together. Assign teams into appetizer, main dishes, and desserts, then everyone eats together!

57. Have a Family Open House where families can come tour the office, meet co-workers, etc
58. Hold a “staff Olympics” with your own events
59. Create a “Job Switch” day where employees switch jobs with one another to get an idea about other people’s positions (particularly useful when supervisor does front line duty)
60. Celebrate people! Not just birthdays, but continuing education, babies, work anniversaries
61. Hold a staff talent show to let people show off
62. Assign staff members each one day where they get to share a slideshow of pictures about themselves, a favorite vacation, their families, etc
63. Have a contest to see who can match each employee to their baby picture
64. Have a contest to see who can match each employee to their pet
65. Have a game of “people bingo” where the Bingo card is all questions or “find someone who...” and they have to get other employees to sign
66. Start a company book club or movie club
67. Create teams and do an office scavenger hunt
68. Have a fun photo booth with props at work one day and give people a break to take funny pictures with each other- then post the pictures on a bulletin board or in the break room
69. Have a progressive ice cream social where people go office to office for toppings
70. Highlight a new staff member each month/ week in a company newsletter or blog
71. Have people draw or paint with their non-dominant hands and then hang them up on the fridge or a bulletin board like children’s art
72. Have the whole team bring someone soup next time they’re sick!
73. Have the entire team greet someone at the airport next time they arrive from out of town
74. Bring as many team members to attend important team member events like graduations or presentations
75. Invite former employees or retirees to company events
76. Assign someone as the social coordinator to plan monthly events

77. Have everyone fill out “favorites” sheets to be used for gifts or activities like favorite movie, drink, food, store, music, etc
78. Make time once a month for a team building activity! Some are easy and quick and others are more in depth. There are thousands... Google some!
79. Office chair curling! Set up a target, then someone has to roll an office chair down a hallway and see how close they can get to the bulls-eye. Depending on safety, this could be done with someone in the chair as well. Prize for the closest, and for a fun twist they can video themselves doing it so not everyone has to do it at the same time or people on different shifts can rotate!
80. “Nerfs of Steel” Mega Nerf darts, pool noodles, plastic cups, and eye protection (funnier the glasses the better). One partner holds the cups in their hand while other blows the darts through the pool noodle to knock them off. Other roles can be dart runners to bring darts back & forth, people taking video/pics, and others “betting” on the winner!

Celebrations, Contests, and Awards:

81. Create fun awards to be given out at random or at an awards banquet, but keep them positive and appropriate i.e.: Best Laugh, Cleanest Desk, Best Voicemail Voice, etc
82. Have staff complete NCAA Basketball Tournament Brackets and have a trophy for the winner. Each year, engrave the winner’s name and they get to keep the trophy at their desk
83. Have staff complete Academy Awards predictions and have a trophy for the winner. Each year, engrave the winner’s name and they get to keep the trophy at their desk
84. Have an annual “Laugh at Yourself” award given to the person with the best ‘bad day on the job’ story or mistake they made that they can now laugh about
85. Celebrate funny days of the year like pineapple day, national selfie day, donut day, etc
86. Open the office up to trick-or-treating and invite employees’ kids to go office to office for candy
87. Have “welcome” parties for new hires rather than always focusing on “goodbye parties” for people leaving
88. Crowd source almost any idea via a contest – new name for a product, new way to do something, new slogan, etc. Make it into a contest and ask for everyone’s input
89. Celebrate team accomplishments as often as possible. Things like getting through a busy time of year, getting the next fiscal year’s budget approved, or finishing a large presentation

90. Give awards to employees who were able to make a customer smile. Even if it is a set of wind up chattering teeth, it will encourage people to go out of their way to make someone smile

Presentations:

91. Find funny pictures that correlate with your topic and put those in the presentation
92. Let the audience play “Buzzword Bingo” while you present! (see #11)
93. Think of the top 3 funny stories that you tell your friends... can you weave one of those into your presentation to make a point?
94. Find funny props to compliment your points
95. Tell your audience that the subject matter is dry, so you’ve added a funny picture after every couple of slides to lighten it up... then you don’t have to be funny!
96. Find funny cartoons that relate to your topic and add them
97. Google funny _____ stories or jokes about your topic and see if there is one you can use
98. Find funny trivia or facts about your topic to use
99. Grossly exaggerate something to the point of ridiculousness
100. Make fun of yourself in some way to start out

Other Fun Stuff:

101. Wacky Socks Wednesday! Encourage everyone to wear crazy socks on Wednesdays to get over the hump. (you could do funky sock Friday too, but Fridays are already pretty good)
102. School spirit day: have everyone wear something from their favorite school (high school, college, etc)
103. Make emails more fun with caption contests. Rather than just sending out that same old boring email, include a funny picture or cartoon and ask for the best caption

104. The 3-minute party: at 3pm when everyone is tired, one person gets to choose a song and everyone takes about a 3-minute break to stand up, stretch, dance while this employee's favorite up beat song plays
105. Start everyone's week off right with a Monday Madness email every Monday morning with a short funny video
106. Maintain a file of funny work stories like customer complaints, funny quotes, and goofs
107. Freeze Fun! During the winter have everyone get up, bundle up (or not) and go get a shot of the brisk winter air outside - it's said to increase concentration! You could expand this into a snowball fight (if you live near snow) and/or coming back inside to hot chocolate!
108. **Play my TEDx Talk ["Leading with Laughter: The Power of Humor in Leadership"](#)** at your next meeting or share it via email or social media with your colleagues to give them a laugh!!! (Just go to youtube and search "Osincup")