

Writing a sitcom



By Emad Tazi



What is a sitcom?

*A sitcom is a television show. Sitcom stands for **situational comedy** or **situation comedy**. It's a genre of comedy centred on a fixed cast of characters who carry over from episode to episode within an ongoing series.*

How to Write a Sitcom

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Characters
- ☐ Acts

Location



Think about shows like the office, Seinfeld, friends and Ted lasso. They are sitcoms whose locations help inform the idea of an ongoing series.



Characters



You need to come up with characters whose interactions will cause drama and laughs. The word "Sitcom" is short for situation comedy. What kinds of situations will your characters face? And are these situations a result of who they are and how they are developed?

ACT

ACT ONE:

Introduce the characters, the world,
the main problem of the episode

ACT TWO:

Show the characters' struggle

ACT THREE:

- ▶ Solve the main problem, but not cleanly
- ▶ Leave a few complications open-ended

act
no

Act I

Joey's and Chandler apartment

location
time

Scene

Joey's pushes Ross into his fridge

- Joey: Or you know, you could do...
- [Pushes Ross into his fridge]
- Ross: What the hell are you doing?
- Joey: What the hell am I doing? You just broke my fridge!
- Ross: What? How do you even know it's broken?
- Joey: You think I don't know what breaks my fridge? Excuse me.
- [Puts hand in fridge]
- Joey: What do you know? It's broken! That'll be \$400.
- Chandler: Joey I saw you push him.
- [Silence]
- Joey: You pushed him!
- Ross: Joey, I did not break this, okay?
- [Sniffs inside it]
- Ross: That has been broken for a while.
- Joey: [Seriously] Hey Chandler, remember when I told you about our fridge?
- Chandler: Uh-huh.
- Joey: I still haven't gotten a check for your half yet.
- Ross: Do not give him any money!
- [Joey turns to Ross]
- Joey: I'm not talking to you, you broke my fridge!

dialogue