

That's a fantastic idea! Funny or lighthearted prompts are excellent for novices because they lower the stakes, encourage **humor and creativity**, and make it easier to find relatable examples from pop culture or personal life.

The same **2-minute prep/3-minute speech** structure still applies: **simple structure, concrete examples, and a strong finish**.

Here is coaching advice for tackling "funny advice" prompts, followed by 20 humorous examples and tips.

Coaching Advice for "Funny Advice" Prompts

The key here is to leverage humor to deliver a surprisingly insightful, but ultimately simple, speech.

1. The "Seriously Silly" Approach

Teach your students to treat the silly prompt **seriously** for a moment. This is the moment they interpret the joke into a lesson.

- **Prompt:** "Never trust a skinny cook."
- **Interpretation:** This is really advice about **authenticity** and **expertise**—the people who truly love something often embody it.
- **Thesis:** "Never trust a skinny cook, because the best things in life require genuine, passionate commitment."

2. Leverage Pop Culture and Personal Anecdotes

Humorous speeches thrive on short, relatable examples that get a laugh.

- **Pop Culture:** Cartoons, movies, internet memes, and celebrity stories are gold. They're quick to explain and instantly recognizable. (e.g., Use Homer Simpson to illustrate a point about laziness).
- **Exaggerated Anecdotes:** Encourage students to take a simple personal experience (e.g., getting lost in a grocery store) and slightly **exaggerate** it for comedic effect.

3. Delivery: Pace and Punchlines

- **The Pause:** The most critical comedic delivery tool is the **pause**. Teach them to pause *right* before the punchline or the funny example. This builds anticipation.
 - **Facial Expressions & Gestures:** Allow for larger-than-life, expressive gestures. A funny prompt gives them permission to be physically more engaging.
 - **Don't Force Laughter:** The goal is to be amusing and insightful. If a line doesn't land with a laugh, they should simply move on confidently.
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20 Funny Advice Prompts & Speaking Tips

These prompts are designed to be immediately amusing while still allowing for a clear, structured speech about a relatable life lesson.

#	Prompt	Thematic Tip for Novice Speaker	Structure Suggestion
1	"Always read the comments."	Interpret this as advice about seeking all perspectives , even the ridiculous ones.	P1: The value of opposing (or silly) viewpoints. P2: Learning to filter the noise from the message.
2	"If you lend someone money, and you never see them again, it was worth it."	Speak about the high cost of holding grudges and the value of simple letting go.	P1: The emotional freedom of cutting your losses. P2: Why some "fees" are worth the resulting peace.
3	"Never trust a skinny cook."	Focus on passion and authenticity in life, and why experts should <i>embody</i> their subject.	P1: A lack of passion suggests a lack of expertise (e.g., a bored comedian). P2: The evidence of love (e.g., the messy desk of a busy student).
4	"When in doubt, always wear socks."	Interpret this as advice about simple preparation or avoiding unnecessary discomfort .	P1: Preventing small but crucial problems (socks for cold feet). P2: Using simple acts of preparation for success (studying flashcards).

5	The three-second rule, applied to life.	Focus on the importance of seizing the moment and acting quickly before overthinking.	P1: The impulse to seize small opportunities (literally food). P2: Applying the same urgency to big decisions (the "three-second rule" for asking someone out).
6	"Remember: A vacation is all you can eat."	Interpret this as the need to fully indulge and commit to a change of pace.	P1: The value of total commitment (going "all in" on rest). P2: Why you can't half-vacation or half-commit to a goal.
7	"Don't go chasing waterfalls."	(From the TLC song) Interpret this as advice to stick to simplicity and avoid chasing unrealistic goals.	P1: Avoiding glamorous but risky pursuits (waterfalls). P2: The wisdom of the "TLC" lifestyle (sticking to the rivers and the lakes).
8	"If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning."	Speak about the value of learning from mistakes , both your own and others'.	P1: The effectiveness of negative reinforcement (the warning). P2: Why we should cherish our "horrible warnings" (personal funny failures).
9	The greatest advice I ever got from a fortune cookie.	Focus on the unexpected sources of wisdom and finding meaning everywhere.	P1: A funny, ridiculous fortune. P2: The actual lesson it contained (or one you <i>imposed</i> on it).

10	"Never put off till tomorrow what you can put off till the day after tomorrow."	Interpret this humorously as advice for time management and the power of strategic rest.	P1: Why we sometimes need to delay (the burnout is real). P2: The danger of <i>constant</i> delay (the limits of putting things off).
11	"The best things in life are free, and can be easily stolen."	Speak about the value of intangibles like happiness, time, or ideas, and the need to protect them.	P1: The joy of simple, free things. P2: How easily those things can be "stolen" by stress or worry.
12	"A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory."	Interpret this as the need for humility and accepting that we all forget our mistakes.	P1: The relief of forgetting minor embarrassments. P2: Why we must remember the <i>major</i> lessons, even if the details fade.
13	"If you fall, make it part of the dance."	Speak about improvisation and recovering gracefully from errors.	P1: A personal story of a physical or mental stumble. P2: The power of owning your mistakes and making them intentional.
14	"Eat a live frog first thing in the morning."	(A reference to Mark Twain) Interpret this as tackling your worst task first in the day.	P1: The sheer difficulty of the "frog" (your most hated task). P2: The clarity and energy you gain once it's done.
15	"When life gives you lemons, demand to speak to life's manager."	Speak about the importance of standing up for yourself and not	P1: The weakness of passively accepting "lemons." P2: The fun (and success) of aggressively pursuing what you deserve.

		settling for the status quo.	
16	"If you're going to be a bear, be a grizzly."	Interpret this as advice for total commitment and going "all in" on your identity or role.	P1: Why half-measures fail (the weak 'teddy bear'). P2: The power of committing to be a "grizzly" in your passions.
17	"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."	Focus on the importance of perspective and finding joy in the moment.	P1: The absurdity of ultimate seriousness. P2: How finding the humor in daily life improves outcomes.
18	A burnt piece of toast.	Interpret this as a simple symbol for accepting imperfections and finding the good in a flawed result.	P1: The immediate frustration of the burn. P2: The lesson that some things are still salvageable, even if imperfect.
19	"Avoid clichés like the plague."	Speak ironically about the value of originality and the danger of falling back on tired phrases or ideas.	P1: The amusing overuse of common clichés. P2: Encouraging the audience to think and speak with originality.
20	"Always steal an idea from the person you admire most."	Interpret this as advice for mentorship and emulating success (not literally stealing).	P1: The power of reverse-engineering success by observing others. P2: How to adapt an idea to make it your own, unique "theft."

