

The Comedian's Inventory

Everyone has those little things that they carry with them everywhere they go. It can be normal: like your phone, glasses, mints, lip balm. They can be a little more personal, like a lucky charm or a trinket that was given to you by someone you love. Comedians are people, weird people. Which means that they'd carry around some weird stuff of their own sometimes. What's stranger? Some of these seemingly random things have practical benefits that you didn't even think about! So, keep this article in mind when you're planning a trip or thinking about joke ideas.

The Most Useful Things That Came Out of Nowhere

You know when you open your refrigerator over and over, hoping that something good would just spawn in? Connor Wood has had travel essentials just... up and appear in his backpack and dryer bag. He has no memory of getting it, but it's there. And honestly, does it really matter where it came from? You know what they say: never look a gift horse in the mouth.

How useful are those items you ask? First, he keeps himself hydrated with some Liquid IV packets and gets some protein from some Chomps meat snacks. He also includes some Wellness pills in his dryer bag, he follows the directions "Take at the first sign of imbalance" often due to the unfairness of life. The next item is something that every comedian needs, a notebook with jokes written down. The contents are something that only the writer understands, because who else is going to know what "death threats, haircut." means? According to a short with Netflix Is a Joke, not even him. The last major item is Brooke Averick's *Phoebe Berman's Gonna Lose It*. He promises that he wasn't intentionally advertising it for his friend, but that it's just a really good book. In this day in age, it might as well be an ad, but one should appreciate a good book recommendation.

Connor Wood has a lively selection of items that improves the life of any comic. Some snacks and foods for their health, a way to organize jokes and work on their craft, and something to take their minds off of the deceptively stressful lifestyle of the entertainment industry. Make sure that you remember to pack them though. Not everyone has an agent or guardian spirit to help them with everything they need.

What's in *Your* Bag?

When we watch a comedy show, the performer seems larger than life. Every joke seems to hit effortlessly and they always makes their lives seem like the most engaging, one of a kind moments on earth. Through all of the laughter and funny stories, it's sometimes difficult to remember that comedians are normal people like you and me. And when it comes to it, even the most ordinary people have their own strange habits. Sarah Millican flips the script with her Unusual Items routine, asking what weird little tools and trinkets that the audience carries with them.

Items can tell you a lot about someone. For example, in one of her routines a woman says that she carries tea bags around. To which Millican is able to let out some rather strong opinions on tea. Another show had two people shout out that they both carry superglue of all things. What makes it funnier is that the audience members barely knew how to measure it. One of the weirdest ones was when Millican recounts a time where an audience member had unwrapped Stilton cheese in her bag... for self-proclaimed medical reasons. To which the audience quickly shut down her very smelly lie.

You have to wonder how people's everyday lives have to be like if they're carrying stuff like superglue, tea bags, and Stilton cheese in their handbags and backpacks. The day to day of other people is something we never really think about, and it's the perfect material for a routine. What does an item say about a person? What about it can turn into a funny joke or an engaging story? How do people react to encountering something like unwrapped cheese at a comedy show? Comedy can come from even the simplest of items.