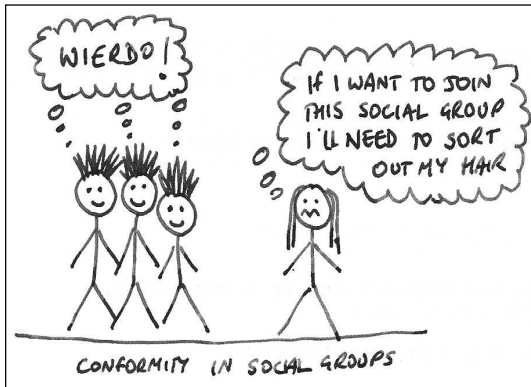


# Using Drawings and Cartoons for Learning



Cartoons are a powerful, visual way of learning psychological material. They are especially useful in psychology, because they allow you to represent processes that people go through, and the thoughts that go through their minds. They also:

- Reduce lots of text to a few pictures and words – this is much easier to understand and recall.
- Require you to think deeply about psychological processes, and makes strong memories
- Allow you to revise complex topics quickly, by glancing at a few pictures, rather than wading through loads of notes.

## How to do it...

- Break the thing you want to explain down into a number of **stages** – not too many, two to four is usually enough.
- Think about what would be going through a person's mind at each stage – what would be **happening** to them, and what would they be **thinking**?
- Now draw a cartoon of each stage in the process – keep it simple: just use **stick figures**. All you need to convey are the key ideas.

## You can...

- Add **speech and thought bubbles** to indicate what people are saying or thinking.
- Use **facial expressions** to show what people are feeling.
- Add decoration and **colour** to help things stand out.

## But you must not...

- Put in **loads of text** – keep it simple and keep it pictorial
- Get **carried away** with the drawings – the point is to explain the psychology, not produce a work of art!
- Use **too many** drawings – the aim is to simplify, not make things more complex.

Here is a cartoon of part of social learning theory to get you started

