Collin’s English Dictionary’s definitions of laughter are:

Noun.
1. The action of or noise produced by laughing.
2. The experience or manifestation of mirth, amusement, or joy.

Verb.
1. To express or show—manifest emotion especially mirth or amusement typically by expelling air from the lungs in short bursts to produce a mumbling sounding noise—an inarticulate voiced noise with the mouth open. The dictionary gives the following below as the synonyms of the word laughter: chuckling, laughing, giggling, chortling, guffawing, cackling, and cachinnating.

At Dictionary.com, to laugh is defined as: Laugh (verb) – to express mirth, pleasure, derision or nervousness with an audible vocal expulsion of very loud air from the body. Air from the lungs that can range from a loud burst of sound to a series of chuckles and is usually accompanied by characteristic facial and bodily movements.

Deputy Director of University College London’s Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Professor Sophie Scott, Deputy Director of University College London’s Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, proffers a more scientific definition of laughter: non-verbal vocalisations that are unlike speech in terms of the way that they are produced with little or no involvement of the articulators – tongue, jaw, soft palate, lips. Instead these vocalisations are dominated by the effects of changes in breath control, sub-glottal pressure, laryngeal tension and facial expressions.

Laughter is a physical reaction to an internal stimulus such as one’s own thought or external stimuli such as seeing something funny or amusing or being tickled. It is difficult to tickle oneself to laugh. Try it. Other factors that cause laughter include certain diseases and agents such as nitrous oxide, the laughing gas.

Laughter has been described said as the brass ring of humour. It is mostly a result of helpful positive emotions. However, laughter can also be a display of negative bad emotions such as embarrassment, regret, apology or confusion. Some examples are nervous laughter, cynical laughter, paradoxical laughter and evil laughter.

Scientists declare that laughter is hereditarily genetically controlled. Giving credence to this assertion are findings that children born blind and deaf do laugh, babies laugh long before they acquire speech and twins separated at birth and brought up in different environments tend to display similar laughter characteristics. Age, gender and culture are some of the factors that determine why, how and how often people laugh. These factors, and a few others, are discussed later in some detail in this book.

According to neuroscientists, laughter is controlled via a complicated circuitry that runs through many parts of the brain.
Edited (Clean)

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Original Draft

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