

Crime, Justice and Friendship Conversation

Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, in a short skit on the pilot episode of their show *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, explore a Britain in which law enforcement and other public service institutions have been privatized. With a partner or two other classmates, write your own sketch about crime, justice and friendship, using vocabulary from the course packet where you can. E-mail me your script before class on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Welcome to the Private Police Force sketch link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLfghLQE3F4> (3:01 min.)

Script:

Welcome to the Private Police Force Sketch

Peter and Oliver shake hands in greeting.

OLIVER. Hi, Peter. Peter, listen, would you like a _____? Filter, espresso, cappuccino; we also decaf on orders.

PETER. Well, that's very kind. Er, you have a _____?

OLIVER. _____? I don't think so, Peter. I'll just _____ that for you. (*Speaking into radio*) Uh, hello, Mabeline, my love? It's Oliver here. Listen, my darling, do we carry a tea machine?

MABELINE. Sorry, dear.

OLIVER. Yes, I thought not. Many thanks, pet. (*To Peter*) Sorry, Peter, no tea on the line.

PETER. Oh, don't worry, don't worry.

OLIVER. So, how may we _____ you?

PETER. (*Looks around*) Well, this is a _____, isn't it?

OLIVER. Well, of course, it is, Petey, yes.

PETER. Yes, 'cause I tried to ring you earlier, but you must have changed your number. All I got was _____ playing in my ear. The thing is my car's been stolen.

OLIVER. Your car's been stolen?

PETER. Yes.

OLIVER. Oh, Peter, I am sorry to hear that. Tsk. Aw. And you'd like us to do _____ about it?

PETER. Well, yes, please.

OLIVER. Ah, okay. (*Bringing out a folder of brochures from behind the desk*) Well, have you had a look at our brochure, Peter? If you'll pardon the pun.

PETER. What pun?

OLIVER. There was not one? Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, Peter. (*Leaving the desk with the folder and leading Peter to a sitting area*) If you'd like to come with me, we'll go through it together. Come on, take a seat. Now, Peter, we offer _____ three kinds of stolen car recovery service: that's the Super, the Lovely, and the Gorgeous. Now, the Super is our basic non-priority listing of your car. The Lovely's higher priority. The Gorgeous is A1 _____ priority. We put all our team onto it, field and _____, and that also includes a full waxing and valeting of your car on recovery.

PETER. I see.

OLIVER. _____, Peter, the Gorgeous is a more _____ service.

PETER. I beg your pardon?

OLIVER. Do you have an account with us?

PETER. Account? No!

OLIVER. Or you're a shareholder, _____.

PETER. What, I'm a citizen, if that's what you mean.

OLIVER. Citizen. Oh, you mean, you mean _____?

PETER. Look, I don't want to sound stupid, but I, I get back to England, I find my car's been stolen—

OLIVER. Peter, you've been _____? Did you perhaps miss the privatization of the police force?

PETER. What?

OLIVER. This is now a _____ office of Brit Law PLC. Would you like to fill out a form?
(Returns to his desk)

PETER. Fill out a form? Fill out a form? (Follows OLIVER back to the desk) You mean fill in a form! Has everyone suddenly turned _____?

OLIVER. Now, Peter, I shall need your address, I shall need your place and date of _____, your car registration number, and we shall be able to have your account verified within _____ days, subject to status.

PETER. This is insanity! I'm a _____.

OLIVER. Peter, everybody had a chance to buy shares at the time of issue. It was all supervised by a reputable merchant bank. Well, by a merchant bank anyway.

PETER. This is madness. I'm _____.

OLIVER. No, Peter, not that way. Not that way, Peter. (Getting up after Peter)

PETER. What?

OLIVER. That the High Street.

PETER. Yes?

OLIVER. Well, the High Street is _____ by UK High Roads PLC. We're _____ by them to make sure that only those with valid road way passes use the street.

PETER. But that's the Queen's highway, for goodness sakes! Surely I can use that.

OLIVER. Queen's? Oh, you have shares in the _____ Family PLC? That would be quite sufficient.

PETER. Shares in th-? Well, of course, I haven't.

OLIVER. Well, Peter, then I'm afraid I must ask you to come with me to the _____ bar. Now, if you'd just like to put your hands on the detention knob.

PETER. But I haven't done _____.

OLIVER. Um, not the Gold Member _____. For you, I'm afraid we'll have to use the bronze, Master Peter.

PETER. No, no. Absolutely not!

OLIVER. Now, Peter, Peter.

PETER. No, no, I refuse!

OLIVER. Peter!

PETER. What? (Oliver knees him in the groin.) Well, you haven't _____ that much then.
(Oliver smiles politely.)

Editing and Delivery Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Does the opening orient the audience and start on topic right away without being boring?	<input type="checkbox"/> How would you say a particular line?
<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent register	<input type="checkbox"/> How would you deliver a particular word?
<input type="checkbox"/> Correct grammar, idiom, collocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective pauses
<input type="checkbox"/> Pace	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective emphasis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pace
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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