

A is helping B, a musician, pack up the car for an out-of-town gig.

B: Thanks for helping me with all this stuff.

A: No problem. Should I get your instrument first, or the recording equipment?

B: Let's start with the sax.

A: Sure. I'll put it in the front of the car so it doesn't get damaged.

Two lawyers are revising a contract that they've been hired to write.

B: Pat added this one sentence to the contract that I think is going to cause us a lot of trouble.

A: Yeah, and he also gave us a big list of other changes that he wanted us to make.

B: I think those are mostly low priority. We can work on those later.

A: So which of Pat's ideas do you want to start with?

B: Let's try changing his clause.

A retired couple is out for lunch together.

B: I keep finding all these white hairs around my temples!

A: I wouldn't worry about it. It makes you look distinguished.

B: I didn't think my hair would turn white right away. Hair usually grays first.

Two parents are talking about a backpacking excursion that their teenage sons had been planning.

A: Peter and Kevin had a ton of stuff in the car yesterday, but it's empty now. I thought they were going to take a trip.

B: Yeah, they had it packed for their trip. Kevin told me they decided to put it off until next week.

A: Why—what happened? They were really looking forward to going.

B: The weather report said it was going to snow all weekend. They didn't want to drive in the weather.

Two parents are talking while their son Eugene is playing a game with his cousins.

A: I'm glad Eugene is finally playing Jenga with his little cousins.

B: Maybe... I wish he would be nicer to them.

A: He keeps saying how well they're doing at the game. It seems like he's trying to be nice!

B: He's trying to tease them. They don't realize he's being sarcastic yet.

A: Oh... maybe we should say something to him.

B just gotten a call from a friend who's getting married soon.

A: Thanks for RSVPing to our wedding reception! A couple people have asked about what kind of gifts would be appropriate, so I just wanted to call to let you know that we're not expecting attendees to bring anything.

B: Oh, thanks...I need to tell James that.

A: Uh-oh. Did he already buy a present?

B: He's already wrapped a present.

Two neighbors are talking after a burglary at one of their houses.

A: Do you know how the burglar got in? Were any of the windows broken?

B: He probably came in through the front door. He left some mud on the carpet.

A: How was he able to get your door open?

B: He pried our door open. We found the broken crowbar he used.

Two accountants are working together in an office in the late afternoon.

A: I'm heading out for lunch. Do you want anything?

B: I brought my lunch today. I'm feeling really tired anyway.

A: Oh, maybe you need some caffeine! Do you want me to pick up some tea while I'm out?

B: I just brewed some tea. Thanks anyway, though.

Two travelers are waiting in an airport security line.

A: Do you think it's okay to take this pocket knife through security? It looks like the guy at the X-ray machine isn't paying very close attention.

B: If he sees it, there might be a big scene. You should just drop it in the mail.

A: That's a good idea. Let's do that instead.

Two office workers are working on a newsletter.

B: Thanks for helping me with the newsletters. Let's put this photo on the front page.

A: Should we just staple it to the front?

B: I thought we'd paste it there instead. Then we won't have to damage the edges.

A: That's a good idea.

Two friends are chatting.

B: Daniel looks really tan! Did he go to the beach this weekend?

A: He said he spent the whole day there. He definitely got a good tan.

B: Yeah...it looks like he did. He got some good rays.

A: I guess we missed out. I always get sunburned anyway.

Two neighbors are talking about a community garden.

A: I left some tools out yesterday when I was weeding the garden.
Did you put any of them away?

B: Yeah, I put the hoes away, back in the shed.

A: Thanks—sorry for leaving a mess everywhere.

A repair person just arrived at an office on a hot summer day.

A: Maintenance sent me over to fix your broken air conditioning system. They said you're not getting any air flow here. Have you checked to see if your vent is blocked?

B: No...but this duct is blocked.

A: Okay, we'll take a look.

Two political campaign workers are talking about the election results that were announced the day before.

B: When Kate found out that she won the election, she was just in a state of total shock.

A: That's great! What did she say after the shock had worn off?

B: Once she'd gotten past the daze, she thanked all of her supporters. She was very thoughtful.

Two rural neighbors are talking about a friend, Rich, who is an avid hiker and animal-lover.

B: Rich decided to take care of the injured hawk that he found yesterday.

A: They don't do well in captivity. Wouldn't it be better to let it go?

B: If he frees it, it won't survive.

B has just walked into a shoe store.

A: Good morning! Just let me know if you need help finding anything.

B: Hello. I was hoping to find a pair of leather boots.

A: Of course. Are you looking for a particular kind of leather boots today? Fancy ones, or boots for when it rains?

B: I was looking for suede ones today... so they won't be for rain.

A: No problem—please follow me.

Two neighbors are talking on the porch.

A: Nice to chat with you. It looks like the plumbing company just got here, so I should go let them in.

B: Oh, did you call Northern Plumbing? Don't trust them with your money. Remember how Martha and Tony around the corner got scammed? That's them.

A: Are you sure it's the same company? It's a similar van, but I thought they were called Mission Plumbing.

B: It's a different guise, but it's the same company.

A: Oh...I'll keep an eye on them. Thanks.

B: No problem. Talk to you later!

Two friends are watching a news program on TV.

A: This show always has really interesting charts, but they never show them for very long.

B: I pause at them sometimes.

A: I usually watch them live. Maybe I should just record them.

Two soccer players just finished a game.

B: Miranda was pretty upset after she let that goal through.

A: She went left and the ball went right. She almost never misjudges it like that.

B: Yeah...it was just a lapse. She'll bounce back tomorrow.

Two friends are talking about an intramural baseball game.

B: Anderson got hit with a baseball yesterday. The pitcher was trying to throw a fastball but missed.

A: Is Anderson all right?

B: Yeah, but he got a bad bruise.

Two roommates are talking.

A: Who was that at the door?

B: It was someone asking if we needed carpet cleaning services. I said no, but he claimed he needed to come in anyway because city hall had designated our house as the possible source of a mold infestation on this block, and his company was the only one licensed to deal with it.

A: Isn't that kind of a complicated story?

B: It's a complicated ruse. I've read about this scam online.

Two parents are talking about their college-age daughter, Jan.

A: Jan said she had a great time on the ski trip. She said it turned out to be pretty expensive, though.

B: Yeah, she asked me if she could borrow five hundred dollars and pay me back when her job starts.

A: Five hundred dollars? Was that Jan's share of the trip?

B: Yeah...that's what Jan owed for it.

An art historian is showing a colleague around a Gothic church.

B: This is the area where the earthquake last month caused most of the damage. But there was a silver lining too—when that stairwell collapsed, we found a mural behind the broken stones.

A: Do you know yet if the mural was originally part of the building?

B: Not yet. A forensics team came in to analyze the paint on the mural. They took some samples last week, but we haven't gotten the results back yet.

A: Oh, I hope they didn't damage it! Did they scrape off any of the paint?

B: They scraped off some flecks. It's the normal procedure.

B is giving A a tour of a newly-planted vegetable garden.

A: You have a huge garden! I can't wait to come over for dinner in a few months.

B: Thanks! I've got some great Mediterranean recipes planned out. Be careful when you're stepping over the fence.

A: Oops, I think I stepped on something! What's growing here?

B: Hm. . . it looks like it's chard. It'll be fine, don't worry.

A parent and their child are buying ice cream.

B: Go ahead and ask for your favorite flavor, but be sure to be polite.

A: Do I have to say thank you?

B: You have to say please.

A: Could I have some mint chocolate chip ice cream, please?

B: That's right. Then you should say thank you afterwards.

Two congressional representatives are talking about a vote the next day.

B: We need to be sure that everybody from our party is there to vote on the conservation bill tomorrow.

A: Are you worried about whether the bill is going to be approved?

B: No...it'll get passed.

Two young friends are talking about their families' vacation plans.

B: My grandparents fired their travel agent last year. They started booking everything online themselves.

A: I didn't know your grandparents could use the internet.

B: Yeah...that's how they found their cruise.

Two commuters are chatting in a coffee shop.

B: How has the traffic been so far?

A: The traffic isn't bad, but it's always so foggy in the morning. I can never see the bay on my way to work.

B: Well, it's not bad now. It's just mist out there.

A: That's nice to hear! Maybe it will clear up while I'm driving.

B is at the customer service desk at a department store.

B: I bought a shirt from your company's online store, but you guys sent me this one instead of what I ordered.

A: Sure, I can exchange that for you. Is it the wrong color?

B: No, it's the wrong size. I ordered a medium.

Two restaurant executives are talking about expanding to a new location downtown.

B: Getting this construction permit is going to be more of a headache than I thought. I was hoping we could just get the city planning committee chairman to sign off on it, so we wouldn't have to bring it before the whole committee. But the chairman said we need to go to the next meeting.

A: Do you think we can still just ask the committee chairman at the meeting?

B: No... now we'll have to ask the board at the meeting.

Two football fans are talking about how their favorite players celebrate when they score a touchdown.

B: I think John is very professional. He never rubs it in the other team's face when he scores.

A: Really? Isn't John the guy that dances every time he scores a touchdown?

B: John's the guy who prays. Terry is the one that dances. He got a penalty for it last year.

A: I remember when that happened.

Two chefs are starting their morning shift.

A: Do we still need two more pints of milk to make the cheese for today?

B: We need two more quarts.

A: Okay, I'll go get some from the fridge.

Two students are walking to class.

A: The lecture started a couple minutes ago. Do you think the professor is going to mark us late?

B: I heard she doesn't actually care. I think she'll be pretty lax.

A: That's good to know.

An IT worker is giving a presentation on parental-control software for browsing the internet.

B: This software will keep your kids from clicking on URLs that go to potentially unsafe sites. It actually hides them, so kids won't even see them on their screen.

A: Will it hide the images I don't want my kids to see too?

B: No, just the links. You'll have to use other software to block images.

Two friends are talking.

B: Did you see Russell trying to hand out all those copies of “Our World’s Promise” at the book fair?

A: What’s that? Is it another religious book that he wrote?

B: Well...it’s a tract he wrote.

Two friends are talking about a football game that B went to with their mutual friend, Tim.

A: How was the football game? I'm impressed that you drove all the way up to Portland just to see your team play.

B: It was fine—we won, but Tim got pretty upset that he was the only one cheering for our team.

A: I bet that must have been frustrating.

B: Yeah... all his cheers were drowned out by boos.

Two event planners are working on a schedule for an upcoming fundraiser.

A: Did you ask Taylor for her opinion on the fundraiser schedule? I thought we'd start advertising about three weeks before.

B: She said that we aren't going to raise any money if we don't start at least two months in advance.

A: Oh, is that what Taylor thinks?

B: It's what Taylor knows. She's run a lot of fundraisers before.

Two roommates are talking.

B: I read that lilies can be dangerous to animals.

A: Do you think we should keep them away from the cat?

B: If he chews one, he'll get sick. We should just put them outside.

Two parents are talking before a little league awards ceremony.

A: Did you put together the award yourself?

B: Sort of. I added all these blue ribbons to this medal I bought.

A: What's keeping the ribbons together? Are they all glued underneath?

B: No...they're tied underneath.

Two neighbors are chatting at a barbecue.

A: Oh, here comes Don. He looks like he's got something on his mind.

B: Uh oh. I'm going to go see how the grill is doing.

A: Why don't you want to talk to Don?

B: Well, he really pries. He always asks very personal questions.