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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 2: Quick!



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Peter**

Quick! Quick!

**Gordon**

[Stands up]

What!?! Is it a fire? Calm down everyone! Calm down!

**Peter**

Urgh? what... It's not a fire. We've got a customer...

**Ceilia**

[Gets up, looking excited]

A customer!?! At last.

**Gordon**

So what does he want? **I haven't got all day.**

**Peter**

He wants the... [pleased with himself and looking at his notebook] 'Spatchcocked peasant with lemon and herbs.'

**Gordon**

Pheasant, not peasant, honestly, call yourself a waiter.t!

[Peter goes back to restaurant]

**Ceilia**

Come on then Gordon, **get a move on**, we can't let this customer get away.

**Gordon**

[irritated] I know, I know. Now where did I put the pheasant.... [looking around]

**Mary**

I'll give you a hand if you like.

**Gordon**

You just stick to the washing up, love. Cooking pheasant is a job for a professional chef... now where is this stupid pheasant... [looks in cupboards etc][Mary goes off to find it]

**Peter**

[rushes back in] ...the customer says '**pull your finger out**' – he's off to the theatre soon.

**Gordon**

[Getting angry and about to go out to talk to the customer] I'll tell him where he can stick his finger...

**Ceilia**

[Pulling Gordon back] Gordon, stay here and cook – come on, **as quick as a flash**.

**Gordon**

I need a pheasant!

**Mary**

[Coming back in with a bag] I've found the pheasant and it doesn't smell that.... fresh.

**Ceilia**

Well can't we get a fresh one **A.S.A.P.?**

**Gordon**

How are we going to get a pheasant at this time of night? – anyway, I cook not go shopping.

**Mary**

OK, I'll go and tell the customer shall I? [Mary goes off and comes back again]

[Gordon and Ceilia argue about a solution]

**Ceilia**

We need a **quick fix**... why don't we use a chicken?.

**Gordon**

Chicken isn't pheasant.

**Mary**

[Talking over the argument] Listen, listen.... we won't need a pheasant.

**Ceilia**

Why?

**Mary**

He's gone.

## Vocabulary

### **I haven't got all day**

do it quickly; hurry up

### **get a move on**

do it more quickly

### **pull your finger out**

start working harder (and more quickly)

### **(as) quick as a flash**

very quickly

### **A.S.A.P.**

(abbreviation) as soon as possible

### **a quick fix**

fast and easy solution

## Questions

1. Gordon criticised Peter by saying 'Call yourself a waiter!' to him. What had Peter done to deserve Gordon's criticism?

(Hint: What did the customer order?)

- a. Peter wasn't wearing the correct clothes
- b. Peter got the customer's food order wrong
- c. Peter let the customer go before he'd had his food

2. Why did Mary say that Gordon wouldn't need a pheasant?

(Hint: Where is the customer?)

- a. Because the customer had waited for a long time and then left without waiting for his food to arrive
- b. Because the customer had changed his mind and wanted chicken instead
- c. Because the pheasant was old and couldn't be cooked

3. Why did Ceilia say 'we need a quick fix'?

(Hint: What doesn't she want to lose?)

- a. Because the pheasant smells very bad
- b. Because she doesn't want to lose her only customer
- c. Because nobody can find a pheasant

## Answers

1. Gordon criticised Peter by saying 'Call yourself a waiter!' to him. What had Peter done to deserve Gordon's criticism?

a. Peter wasn't wearing the correct clothes (Wrong. Gordon didn't comment about what Peter was wearing.)

**b. Peter got the customer's food order wrong (Correct! Peter said the customer ordered 'peasant'. In fact, the customer asked for 'pheasant'.)**

c. Peter let the customer go before he'd had his food (Not correct. The customer was still waiting for his food when Gordon said this.)

2. Why did Mary say that Gordon wouldn't need a pheasant?

**a. Because the customer had waited for a long time and then left without waiting for his food to arrive (Yes! He gave up waiting for his food.)**

b. Because the customer had changed his mind and wanted chicken instead (Wrong. The customer had given up waiting for his food.)

c. Because the pheasant was old and couldn't be cooked (Wrong! The pheasant was old but the customer didn't know that. He had just given up waiting for his food.)

3. Why did Ceilia say 'we need a quick fix'?

a. Because the pheasant smells very bad (Not correct! The pheasant does smell bad but that's not why she wants a quick fix.)

**b. Because she doesn't want to lose her only customer (Yes, that's right!)**

c. Because nobody can find a pheasant (Wrong! Mary has found the pheasant.)