
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant

25: Brave



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Ceilia

Listen everyone. I've just heard on the radio, the police are looking for a criminal who was last seen in this area. We need to keep an eye out for him.

Peter

Oh no – do you think he'll come here do you?

Gordon

Oh yes, no doubt he'll have a three-course meal while he waits for the police to catch him.

Mary

Not if he's eating your cooking Gordon. Anyway Ceilia, what does he look like?

Ceilia

Well, the police say he's about Gordon's height, he's got a slightly reddish face and is wearing a silly hat...

Gordon

Well, don't all look at me.

Ceilia

... and he's got glasses and he also has a moustache.

Gordon

A moustache! Sounds like a *proper* criminal... he no doubt slits the throats of his victims... killed his mother... and doesn't pay his taxes. When I see him I'll make sure he gets his **comeuppance**.

Ceilia

You're **all mouth and no trousers** Gordon. Anyway, everyone back to work and remember we need to keep an eye out for him.

Mary

Are you a bit nervous Gordon?

Gordon

No. I've had to deal with customers that are worse than criminals.

Peter

The... the...the man.... I think he's out there... table 3.

Mary

OK, stay calm. Peter, go get Ceilia. Gordon... go and see if he's out there. Come on – are you **a man or a mouse?**

Gordon

He might have a knife or a gun ... he could be dangerous...

Mary

Come on... **what are you made of?** I thought you were **my knight in shining armour!**

Ceilia

I'll see if it's him.... False alarm! It's not him!

Gordon

Right, I'm going out there. How dare we have customers trying to look like dangerous criminals... I was that close to handing him over to the police.

Ceilia

Don't bother. When did I say he was a dangerous criminal? The police are looking for a thief who was shoplifting.

Mary

Hmmm, I think it's safer if you stay in the kitchen Gordon!

Ceilia

Is that wise? It's his cooking that's criminal!

Vocabulary

comeuppance

deserved punishment for doing something bad

all mouth and no trousers

talking a lot about doing something without actually doing it

a man or a mouse

be brave even if you are frightened

what are you made of?

prove how brave you are

my knight in shining armour!

someone very brave who is going to help me

Questions

1. What has Ceilia just heard on the radio?

(Hint: Somebody is looking for someone.)

- a) Gordon has cooked a meal for a criminal
- b) The police are on the lookout for a criminal
- c) A criminal has been caught by the police close to the restaurant

2. When Mary wants Gordon to be brave and check if there is a criminal in the restaurant, what does she ask him?

(Hint: It compares something big and brave with something small.)

- a) Are you a man or a mouse?
- b) Are you a man and a mouse?
- c) Are you a mouse or a man?

3. What does Ceilia mean when she says Gordon's cooking is criminal?

(Hint: It describes the quality of his cooking.)

- a) It's been stolen
- b) It's terrible
- c) It should only be eaten by criminals

Answers

1. What has Ceilia just heard on the radio?

a) Gordon has cooked a meal for a criminal.

Wrong. That wasn't what she heard.

b) The police are on the lookout for a criminal.

That's right. That's what she heard.

c) A criminal has been caught by the police close to the restaurant.

Not correct. That's not what she heard on the radio.

2. When Mary wants Gordon to be brave and check if there is a criminal in the restaurant, what does she ask him?

a) Are you a man or a mouse?

Correct. That's the phrase!

b) Are you a man and a mouse?

Wrong. That's not quite right.

c) Are you a mouse or a man?

Not correct. The phrase is the wrong way round.

3. What does Ceilia mean when she says Gordon's cooking is criminal?

a) It's been stolen

Wrong. Have another go.

b) It's terrible

Correct. She's being rude about the quality of his food!

c) It should only be eaten by criminals

Not right. Try again.