

## Bottom (BBC, UK) - "Mr Gas Man!"

### Introduction

- 1) Who takes care of the bills in your household?
- 2) How high are your utility bills?
- 3) Are you happy with the amount of money you spend on utilities?
- 4) What could you do to reduce your bills?

### Video

You are going to watch a video about a visit from the gas man. Watch for the first time and decide which of the following statements best describes the situation.

- 1) The two men think the gas man is a thief and try to attack him before he robs them.
- 2) The two men are in a romantic relationship and don't want the gas man to know they are lovers.
- 3) The two men are stealing gas from their neighbour's house and don't want the gas man to catch them.

### Difficult Vocabulary

There is some vocabulary that you might not have seen before in the video. Match the following vocabulary to the definition.

a) a (gas) meter	1) to invite someone into your house
b) to look after someone	2) hot but not too hot; pleasantly hot
c) a dreamboat	3) to leave
d) to let someone in	4) a machine to tell you how much gas you have used.
e) warm	5) an affectionate term for someone you love
f) to fall into a coma	6) zero
g) next door	7) to lose consciousness
h) to knock off	8) to be strange
i) to be odd	9) to take care of someone who needs help
j) nought	10) alone
k) to spoil something	11) to finish work
l) on your own	12) to ruin something
m) to be on your way	13) your neighbour's house

Optional: watch the video again to check that your answers make sense.

## Functions: Asking Politely

You are going to watch the video for a final time. Listen for the following questions/requests and fill in the gaps.

1. "Hello, I wondered if I could just \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "Do you have someone who \_\_\_\_\_?"
3. "Could I \_\_\_\_\_ because I need to read your meter?"
4. "Right, I'll just read your meter if \_\_\_\_\_."
5. "Is there some sort of \_\_\_\_\_, officer?"
6. "Do you want a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_?"
7. "No, I don't think I will, \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "You must \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_!"
9. "Yes, I'd love a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, thank you very much."

## Conversations: Constructions for Formal Situations

In certain situations we use more formal language, the video is comical because the characters continue to use this formal language although they get more and more aggressive in their behaviour. Let's look more closely at the constructions you can use in formal situations.

### Offering

Form	Formality	Example
Do you + verb...?	Neutral	"Do you want a cup of tea?"
You must + infinitive (without to)...!	Strong but formal	"You must try our tea!"

### Requesting

Form	Formality	Example
I wondered if I could (just) + verb... I wondered if you could (just) + verb...	Very polite	I wondered if I could just look at your gas meter. I wondered if you could just let me in.
Could I + infinitive (without to)...? Could you + infinitive (without to)...?	Polite	Could I come in? Could you help me?
I'll just + infinitive (without to)..., if I may.	Polite	Right, I'll just read your meter, if I may.

### Accepting Offers

Yes, I'd like...	Yes, I'd like a cup of coffee, please.
Yes, I'd love...	Yes, I'd love to help you.

### Refusing Offers

This is a more advanced way of responding. It's quite complicated but very formal.

Form: *I don't think I + auxiliary, (thank you very much/sorry etc.).*

Examples:

<u>Do</u> you want a cup of tea?	I don't think I <u>do</u> , thank you.
<u>Can</u> I help you?	I don't think you <u>can</u> , sorry.
<u>Will</u> this help?	I don't think it <u>will</u> , thanks.
<u>Is</u> this working?	I don't think it <u>is</u> , sorry.

### Quick Practice

Look at the following formal situations you might find yourself in and write some examples of offers and requests you might make whilst having the relevant conversation. Use the forms above to help you.

**You are in the dentist's chair. What offers and requests do you/does the dentist make?**

- a)
- b)
- c)

**You are on a transatlantic flight. What offers and requests do you/does the airhostess make?**

- a)
- b)
- c)

**You are at the checkout. What offers and requests do you/does the sales assistant make?**

- a)
- b)
- c)

**You are in a coffee shop. What offers and requests do you/does the barista make?**

- a)
- b)
- c)

Optional: Read your answers randomly to another person, can they guess the situation?

### **Final Activity**

Write and practice a role play using all the language you have learnt in this lesson.

You can use any of the scenarios described above or come up with your own situation.

Can you use any of the words from the vocabulary section in your dialogue? Go back and have a look to see if any of the vocabulary is useful for your scenario.

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