

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Notes for teachers	A / 23 Level 1
<i>General aim</i>	A: ORAL TECHNIQUE	
<i>Level of difficulty</i>	2	
<i>Intermediate aim</i>	2: BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE OTHER PERSON	
<i>Operational aim</i>	<p>3: Choose a language register appropriate to the situation and to the person spoken to.</p> <p>NB: There are 2 levels in this module</p> <p>Pages marked A / 23 – 1.1 and following correspond to levels 1 and 2 of the tool “900 exercises in vocational communication”.</p> <p>Pages marked A / 23 – 2.1 and following correspond to level 3 of the tool “900 exercises in vocational communication”.</p>	
<i>Pre-requirements</i>	None	
<i>Number of exercises</i>		
<i>Comments</i>		

LANGUAGE REGISTERS

To speak in “a language register”, is to speak in a certain way.

For example, we do not speak in the same way to our boss as to an old friend.

When we speak, we are always using a language register.

Here are 4 sentences which mean the same thing. They are written in 4 different language registers.

Register 1: *Could you tell me the time, please?*

Register 2: *What time is it please?*

Register 3: *Got the time?*

Register 4: *Wassa time?*

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WHO WILL YOU SPEAK TO IN THE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE REGISTERS?

- Register 1:**
- to someone who is not close or familiar to you
 - to someone who is, in principle, above you in the hierarchy
 - to someone who speaks very well

Careful: we use this language register more often **IN WRITING** than in speaking.

- Register 2:**
- to a child to whom you must speak in simple language,
to show him the example
 - to someone you do not know
 - to an employee in an office
 - to your neighbour if you do not know them very well
 - to your colleagues if you are not on very familiar terms with them

- Register 3:**
- with the people in your immediate family
 - with close friends
 - with people you are on very familiar terms with

- Register 4:**
- with people who often use slang
 - with close friends when you want to make them laugh

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WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE 3 LANGUAGE REGISTERS?

- Register 1:
- very correct English (no mistakes in construction)
 - carefully chosen words
 - fairly complicated sentences
- Register 2:
- correct English (no mistakes in construction)
 - ordinary everyday words
 - simple construction for the sentences
- Register 3:
- use of contractions
(for example: “*they can’t come*”)
 - no real interrogative form when asking a question
(for example: “*got the time*” for “**have** you got the time”)
 - simple words (elementary vocabulary)
 - ‘fit everything’ words like “*thing*”, “*stuff*” etc.
- Register 4:
- often incorrect English
 - popular words and expressions
 - shortcuts
 - slang words

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To whom would you say these sentences? Tick the box of your choice.

1. *D'ya get the thingie I asked for?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

2. *Did you not recently meet the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

3. *Hit 'im one then just drop it.*

A minister

An employee

A friend

4. *Which documents must I hand in for the dossier?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

LOOK AT THE ANSWERS FOR A /23 – 1.2

To whom would you say these sentences? Tick the box of your choice.

1. *D'ya get the thingie I asked for?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

2. *Did you not recently meet the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

3. *Hit 'im one then just drop it.*

A minister

An employee

A friend

4. *Which documents must I hand in for the dossier?*

A minister

An employee

A friend

Write which language register (1, 2, 3 or 4) the following sentence are in.

Sentence 1:

There was a heck of a crowd in the tube because of the strikes.

Register: _____

Sentence 2:

On leaving London, after driving for ten miles or thereabouts, we encountered considerable traffic on the road.

Register: _____

Sentence 3:

Tell yer mate to be there 6 sharp.

Register: _____

Sentence 4:

Don't be such a fool, your exam's in two days!

Register: _____

Sentence 5:

The smoke from your cigar bothers me somewhat; I shall move away a little.

Register: _____

Sentence 6:

I need to make an urgent phone call to the doctor to change my appointment

Register: _____

LOOK AT THE ANSWERS FOR A / 23 -1.3

Write which language register (1, 2, 3 or 4) the following sentence are in.

Sentence 1:

There was a heck of a crowd in the tube because of the strikes.

Register: 3

Sentence 2:

On leaving London, after driving for ten miles or thereabouts, we encountered considerable traffic on the road.

Register: 1

Sentence 3:

Tell yer mate to be there 6 sharp.

Register: 4

Sentence 4:

Don't be such a fool, your exam's in two days!

Register: 3

Sentence 5:

The smoke from your cigar bothers me somewhat; I shall move away a little.

Register: 1

Sentence 6:

I need to make an urgent phone call to the doctor to change my appointment.

Register: 2

Write what language register (1, 2, 3 or 4) the following texts are in. Read the texts carefully before deciding.

Sentence 1:

We had some trouble with the car. We had to have it repaired on the spot. So we were very late.

Register: ...

Sentence 2:

Our motorcar gave us a spot of bother. We were obliged to call on a breakdown mechanic on the spot. We were therefore very much delayed.

Register: ...

Sentence 3:

Our motah played up. We got i' fixed but we weren't 'alf late.

Register: ...

Sentence 4:

Our car broke down. We had to get it fixed right there and then. It was stupid, 'cos it meant we were late.

Register: ...

LOOK AT THE ANSWERS FOR A / 23 -1.4

Write what language register (1, 2, 3 or 4) the following texts are in. Read the texts carefully before deciding.

Sentence 1:

We had some trouble with the car. We had to have it repaired on the spot. So we were very late.

Register: 2

Sentence 2:

Our motorcar gave us a spot of bother. We were obliged to call on a breakdown mechanic on the spot. We were therefore very much delayed.

Register: 1

Sentence 3:

Our motah played up. We got it fixed but we weren't half late.

Register: 4

Sentence 4:

Our car broke down. We had to get it fixed right there and then. It was stupid, 'cos it meant we were late.

Register: 3

The teacher will take each sentence from exercise A / 23 – 1.4 again and the group will try to transpose the sentences into another language register, with the help of the teacher.

Sentence 1:

Register...: _____

Sentence 2:

Register ...: _____

Sentence 3:

Register ...: _____

Sentence 4:

Register ...: _____

Sentence 5:

Register ...: _____

Sentence 6:

Register ...: _____

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Here are 4 sketches written in the 4 language registers we have seen. The teacher will read the sketches and then the learners can choose the one they would like to read.

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SKETCH 1

The characters:

- *Mr Ffortescue-Smythe,*
Bank manager.
- *Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah,*
wife of the main shareholder of the same bank.

The scene: *A grand reception is being held in a large hotel on Mayfair. There are a lot of guests in the rooms and around the buffet.*

Mr Ffortescue-Smythe : Well, my dear Madam, what do you think of this soirée?

Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah : Charming, my dear friend, absolutely charming. What
ambiance!

Mr Ffortescue-Smythe : Isn't it?

Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah : And these gateaux are simply delicious.

Mr Ffortescue-Smythe : This cucumber sandwich is very nice indeed.

Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah : And what elegance! Have you seen Mrs Geraldine St.
Chales' gown?

Mr Ffortescue-Smythe : Yes, how refined. A little more champagne?

Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah : Thank you so much. My head will simply whirl!

Mr Ffortescue-Smythe : Your very good health, Madam.

Mrs Henrietta Lemington-Spah : Your very good health, my dear friend!

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SKETCH 2

The characters: -A holiday maker

- An elderly, retired man

The scene: - The scene takes place in a small town beside the sea. A holiday maker has just settled into a small house rented for the month of August. The house next door has a large garden, and the owner, an elderly man, is busy pruning his roses. The holiday maker introduces himself.

The holiday maker : Good afternoon, Sir, we have just moved in next door for the holiday.

The elderly man : Oh yes? Pleased to meet you, Sir. Are you staying long?

The holiday maker : A month. We've come to enjoy the seaside, with my wife and three children.

The elderly man : Very good! You will like it here. The beach is quite close, and the shops are at the end of the road.

The holiday maker : It's a pity that the garden is so small...

The elderly man : Well, if your children would like to, you can tell them that they can come and play in my garden. I have a dog who loves children.

The holiday maker : Thank you very much, Sir, that is very kind of you!

The elderly man : I'm sure we will see each other fairly often.

The holiday maker : It will be a pleasure. Goodbye.

The elderly man : See you soon!

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SKETCH 3

The characters: *A father and his 15-year-old daughter.*

The scene: *It is 9 o'clock in the evening in a flat in London. Christine, a young girl of 15, goes to the living room where here father is reading the paper.*

Christine : Dad, I'm going out tonight.

The father : Oh yes? Where?

Christine : To some friends'. We're going to dance.

The father : And what time do you think you'll be home?

Christine : About midnight, one o'clock. No later...

The father : And who's bringing you home?

Christine : Phil.

The father : Who's he?

Christine : You know, Phil, my friend from school!

The father : Is he reliable, at least?

Christine : Of course! He's top of the class in maths!

The father : All right. But bring him to meet me sometime.

Christine : Ok Dad. I'll introduce you tomorrow. We're going out again tomorrow.

The father : Again?

Christine : Yes, Dad!

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SKETCH 4

The characters: - *Dora, the landlady of a bar.*
- *Jimbo, a regular at the bar.*

The scene: *The scene takes place in Dora's bar. Five card players are seated at a table. Four of them are playing whist, and the fifth, Jimbo, goes to the bar to talk to Dora before starting to play again.*

Dora : What's up, Jimbo? Things not going so well?

Jimbo : You got to be joking, it's the fifth game I've lost. Useless cards.
Not a single ace since I started!

Dora : Poor old Jimbo. Goin' to lose all yer savin's...

Jimbo : Yep. Not my day, just when I needed the dosh...
Give us a rum.

Dora : There you go. They say that if you change places, yer luck turns.

Jimbo : Better had to. I'll have another rum.

Dora : That's your fifth short! You drink too much, Jimbo...

Jimbo : Nah, it's not every day, I only come at week-ends.

Dora : True enough.

Jimbo : Right, that's them calling me back. Got to try and get some of me money back.

Dora : Good luck, Jimbo!

LANGUAGE REGISTERS

WHAT IS A LANGUAGE REGISTER?

We do not talk in the same way, for example, to our boss as to an old friend.

So, depending on who we are speaking to, we try to adapt our way of speaking.

“Adapt our way of speaking”, that means use the different “language registers that exist.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE REGISTERS?

Let’s look at an example:

Who do you think you would say this sentence to:

“So, how did it go, your job interview?”

To your boss?

To a close friend?

To an employee?

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You would say this sentence to a close friend. Why?

Because you use simple, direct language with familiar, colloquial terms.

Basically, we can say that there are 4 different language registers. They are:

- formal
- informal, correct
- familiar, colloquial
- slang, incorrect

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1) FORMAL LANGUAGE REGISTER

A. What is a formal language register?

- For this register, you will make no mistakes in your English.

For example:

You will not say : - "I'm going to the doctor."

But you will say : - "I'm going to the doctor's."

- You will not use colloquial words.

For example:

You will not say : - "I *messed up* my phone when I *let it drop*."

But you will say : - "I *damaged* my telephone when I *dropped* it."

- You will not use slang words (ordinary slang or vulgar slang).

For example:

You will not say : - "I'm *pissed off* (vulgar slang) with this *old heap* (ordinary slang) that won't start!"

But you will say : - "My *car* won't start; *I find it a real problem*."

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B. With what type of person would you use the formal language register?

- With someone who you do not know, or who is not close to you
- With someone who is, in principle, above you in the hierarchy
- With someone who also speaks in a formal language register

For example:

- Your son's university professor
- Your manager
- A government minister

Careful!

Using this language register requires a certain effort.

It does not come naturally.

You have to take care when speaking.

Finally, it is more often used in writing, and is less common in speech.

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2) THE INFORMAL, CORRECT LANGUAGE REGISTER

A. What is the informal, correct language register?

- For this register, you will speak in a natural way, without necessarily looking for rare or difficult words.

- You will not make mistakes in English.

- You will avoid ‘shortcuts’, even if some of them are in fashion.

For example:

You will not say : - “*Seen* the new History *prof*?”

But you will say : - “*Have you seen* the new History *professor*?”

- You will not use slang words.

For example:

You will not say : - “It *pissed down* all night.”

But you will say : - « It *rained* all night.”

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B. With what type of person will you use the informal, correct language register?

- With a child that you do not know.
- With an employee in an administration.
- With your neighbour whom you do not meet very often.
- With your colleagues if you do not know them well, or if you are not on familiar terms with them.

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3) THE COLLOQUIAL LANGUAGE REGISTER

A. What is the colloquial language register?

- Speaking in this language register, is speaking naturally, without making any particular effort.
- You often use 'shortcuts' or abbreviations:

“Don't worry, I *already did* the dishes.”

Whereas in informal, correct language, you would say:

“Don't worry, I *have already done* the dishes.”

- You will use “fit anything” words like:

« *Thing, stuff, whatsit* »

- You use common, ordinary slang words, but not vulgar slang words.

For example:

“*Peanuts*” (for “small sum”), “*dosh*” (for “money”), “*tip*” (for “mess”).)

- You will make moderate use of popular expressions like:

“What are you getting at” (for “what do you mean”)

“Forty winks” (for “a nap”)

“Packed” (for “crowded”)

- Finally, you only use this register when speaking, never in writing.

B. With what type of person would you use this colloquial language register?

- With the people in your close family (except the children if you want them to learn a correct language).
- With your close friends.
- With people you are on familiar terms with.

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4) THE SLANG, INCORRECT LANGUAGE REGISTER

A. What is the slang, incorrect language register?

It includes everything that is not included in the formal or informal, correct language registers:

- incorrect English
- shortcuts, contractions
- familiar words
- slang words (ordinary or vulgar)

For example, here is a sentence in correct, informal English:

“Have you see the girl standing behind the counter?”

And here is the same sentence in incorrect, slang language:

“Seen the bit o’ stuff what’s behind the bar?”

B. With what type of person would you use this incorrect slang language?

- With people who only speak in this way
- With very close friends when you want to have a laugh.

NB. This language register is often seen in gangster films...!

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Here are 4 sentences which mean the same thing, but which are expressed in each of the 4 language registers that we have just seen. Work out to which register each sentence belongs.

***Sentence 1:** We left by car at about 3. After 100 kils, we had a few probs with the engine. That meant we had to get it fixed and because of that we ruined our first day of the hols. You should have seen their faces!*

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

***Sentence 2:** We departed in our motorcar at 3 o'clock. After driving for approximately 100 kilometres, we encountered a problem with the engine. We were obliged to have the motorcar repaired, and thus we were unable to enjoy the first day of our vacation. We were all very frustrated indeed.*

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

***Sentence 3:** We set off by car at 3 o'clock. After driving for about 100 kilometres, we had an engine breakdown. We had to have the car repaired, and unfortunately we could not enjoy the first day of our holiday due to this incident. We were more than a bit upset!*

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

***Sentence 4:** We hit the road at around 3. We hadn't done more than 100 kils when the sodding thing broke down out in the sticks. We had a hell of a time trying to get it fixed! Bang went the first day of freedom! The faces on those kids!*

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

LOOK AT THE ANSWERS FOR A / 23 – 2.2

Here are 4 sentences which mean the same thing, but which are expressed in each of the 4 language registers that we have just seen. Work out to which register each sentence belongs.

Sentence 1: We left by car at about 3. After 100 kils, we had a few probs with the engine. That meant we had to get it fixed and because of that we ruined our first day of the hols. You should have seen their faces!

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

Sentence 2: We departed in our motorcar at 3 o'clock. After driving for approximately 100 kilometres, we encountered a problem with the engine. We were obliged to have the motorcar repaired, and thus we were unable to enjoy the first day of our vacation. We were all very frustrated indeed.

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

Sentence 3: We set off by car at 3 o'clock. After driving for about 100 kilometres, we had an engine breakdown. We had to have the car repaired, and unfortunately we could not enjoy the first day of our holiday due to this incident. We were more than a bit upset!

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

Sentence 4: We hit the road at around 3. We hadn't done more than 100 kils when the sodding thing broke down out in the sticks. We had a hell of a time trying to get it fixed! Bang went the first day of freedom! The faces on those kids!

- formal language
- informal, correct language
- colloquial language
- incorrect, slang language

Here are 6 sentences each meaning something different.
Work out to which language register each sentence belongs.

Sentence 1: *I heard she was putting away a tidy stash of dough just by renting out holes that she had the cheek to call flats to any poor sod who needed somewhere to doss down for a few months!*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 2: *You should have seen the face on our neighbour when our dog raced into his flat and started after his mangy mog, and all the knick-knacks, lamps and flowerpots went flying!*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 3: *When little Peter raced downstairs in his Docs, making one heck of a racket, followed close on his heels by the caretaker, poor old Jones, who was deaf as a post, thought it was a thunderstorm that had clobbered one of the chimneys in the block of flats.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 4: *When I presented myself in front of the assistant manager of the linoleum manufacturer, this personage greeted me in a most scornful manner: he considered it particularly improbable that I question the quality of his products and that furthermore I demand an instant reimbursement.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 5: *Yesterday I heard your son playing music with his friends...He's a very good guitarist, your son; and the person playing the drums was really enjoying himself! The only thing that bothered me a bit was that the concert was at 2 in the morning!*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 6: *Wot you sayin' man, I didn't see nothing. All I'm sayin' is I don't get it, and if you don't like it, I don't give a monkey's, so just leave me alone and go and see someone else, 'cos it ain't me, all right?*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> langue courante et correcte |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect, slang language |

LOOK AT THE ANSWERS FOR A / 23 – 2.3

Here are 6 sentences each meaning something different.
Work out to which language register each sentence belongs.

Sentence 1: *I heard she was putting away a tidy stash of dough just by renting out holes that she had the cheek to call flats to any poor sod who needed somewhere to doss down for a few months!*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | colloquial language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 2: *You should have seen the face on our neighbour when our dog raced into his flat and started after his mangy mog, and all the knick-knacks, lamps and flowerpots went flying!*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> | incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 3: *When little Peter raced downstairs in his Docs, making one heck of a racket, followed close on his heels by the caretaker, poor old Jones, who was deaf as a post, thought it was a thunderstorm that had clobbered one of the chimneys in the block of flats.*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> | incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 4: *When I presented myself in front of the assistant manager of the linoleum manufacturer, this personage greeted me in a most scornful manner: he considered it particularly improbable that I question the quality of his products and that furthermore I demand an instant reimbursement.*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
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Sentence 5: *Yesterday I heard your son playing music with his friends...He's a very good guitarist, your son; and the person playing the drums was really enjoying himself! The only thing that bothered me a bit was that the concert was at 2 in the morning!*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | colloquial language | <input type="checkbox"/> | incorrect, slang language |

Sentence 6: *Wot you sayin' man, I didn't see nothing. All I'm sayin' is I don't get it, and if you don't like it, I don't give a monkey's, so just leave me alone and go and see someone else, 'cos it ain't me, all right?*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | formal language | <input type="checkbox"/> | informal, correct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | colloquial language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | incorrect, slang language |

Choose one sentence from the 6 in the previous exercise
and rewrite it in a different language register.

Sentence chosen:

Transformed version:

SHOW YOUR WORK TO THE TEACHER

Here is a sketch with two characters who speak in completely different language registers.

The teacher will read the sketch and then each learner will take a role to read, putting as much intonation as possible, as if they were in a theatre.

The characters:

- Three characters:*
- *a frightfully smart gentleman, very well dressed, rather snobbish*
 - *an HGV driver*
 - *the owner of a transport cafe*

The situation:

The scene is a motorway, it's 10pm and there is not much traffic.

A magnificent black Mercedes comes to a halt on the hard shoulder. Smoke is coming out from under the bonnet.

A man in his fifties, elegantly dressed, gets out of the Mercedes and tries to open the bonnet. He obviously does not know what to do.

An articulated lorry appears and the Mercedes driver waves frantically at the driver.

The truck slows down and pulls up a few metres beyond and the driver gets out. He is slightly overweight, stocky and is wearing a sleeveless vest and oily jeans. He walks towards the Merc.

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Scene 1

The driver : - Got a problem, have we?

The smart gentleman : - Er... I believe I have a slight problem with my vehicle, yes.

The driver : - Yep...it's boiling in there. Looks like no more water in the radiator.
Got any anywhere? In my truck, I've only got beer.

The smart gentleman : - One moment, please, I'll just have a look in the bar of the Mercedes.

(The smart gentleman opens the door of the bar and only finds whisky and ice.)

The driver : - A bar?! Got a phone too?

The smart gentleman : - What? A telephone? Oh yes, but not in the bar. It's on the dashboard.
Will ice cubes do?

The driver : - You want to ruin the whole thing!!! What a hammer head!

The smart gentleman : - A hammer? Of course. I'll take a look.

The driver : - Oh gawd, we've got a right one here...

The smart gentleman : - Ah, is that the right one? Here's the hammer.

THE SKETCH CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Scene 2

(The smart gentleman hands the hammer to the driver.)

The driver : - What am I supposed to do with this huge great thing?

The smart gentleman : - Yes it is quite a large one, isn't it?

The driver : - Nah, we can't use that. We just need to let it cool off, that's all.

The smart gentleman : - Ah right...fine...you are a real expert!

The driver : - All part of the job. Got to know about these things. This is nothing. But we're going to need some water... We don't want to be here all night, and it's getting late, hop in, we'll get that water.

The smart gentleman : - If you wouldn't mind, dear sir, I am going to telephone my wife so that she does not worry about me. I'll only be a moment.

The driver : - No probs.

The smart gentleman : - Hello, is that you darling? You will never believe this, but I have broken down on the London road. Yes! And our chauffeur is on holiday! I was in a bit of a fix when a charming gentleman came to my aid. I'm sorry? No, it won't take long. We just have to go and fetch some water, nothing could be simpler. No, don't wait for me for dinner. I'll see you later, darling.

The driver : - Are we off then?

The smart gentleman : - Yes, let's go. I'll follow you.

THE SKETCH CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Scene 3

(The smart gentleman climbs gingerly into the cab of the HGV.)

The driver : - Don't look too closely, it's a bit of a tip.

The smart gentleman : - Oh, this is impressive! From up here, you can see the whole situation!

The driver : - The situation...yeah, not brill, the situation. Lucky I get me bonuses. But I won't get one for speed tonight, that's for sure. I've got to get this load up to Glasgow by 6am.

The smart gentleman : - I am really very sorry to be causing you such delay. You are really most kind. You are... you are a "great bloke"!

The driver : - Nah, you gotta help each other, haven't you? Anyway, at this hour, I'm starting to want a bite to eat.

The smart gentleman : - If you have some bread, I think I've probably got a little caviar left in the Mercedes.

The driver : - Some what? Caviar? That won't fill my stomach. I'll take you to a transport caff, and you can tell me what you think. We'll have a good feast, not too expensive: got mates there, I have.

THE SKETCH CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Scene 4

(The truck stops outside a transport café. When he has climbed out of the cab, the smart gentleman lets his road companion go first, and follows him inside the restaurant. The place is full of smoke; nearly all the tables are occupied by extremely noisy HGV drivers.)

The smart gentleman : - It's rather nice in here. Friendly. I had no idea.

The driver : - See? Now take a butchers at the menu! Joe, bring us the menu!

Joe : - 'Ello there! Got a guest? Travelling salesman, I'll bet!

The smart gentleman : - Something like that. Oh, you've got tripe!

The driver : - Eh?

The smart gentleman : - I mean on the menu. I haven't had that for over twenty years...

The driver : - And nothing like this, I'll bet. Like a drink?

The smart gentleman : - This is my treat, of course.

The driver : - You mean it's your round?

The smart gentleman : - Er... "yep"!

Joe : - Well gents, 'ave you made yer choice?

The driver : - My mate – don't mind, do you? – wants the tripe and I'll have the steak and kidney. Usual cheese after. You should see his Wensleydale!

THE SKETCH CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Scene 5

(Joe brings their food and they start to eat.)

The smart gentleman : - Well, me, ... me old... “mate”, I haven’t had tripe like that in years. It was a great idea of yours to bring me here.

The driver : - ‘S right. You get blokes saying that transport caffs are nothing special. But you should try the nosh!

The smart gentleman : - Yep, me old mate. For the nosh, it’s unbeatable. This cheese is brill.

The driver : - Hey, time’s getting on! Joe! Bring us the bill and also a bottle of water: it’s for the gentleman’s car!

Joe : - Of what?

The driver : - Of water! In a bottle! This gent here, his radiator’s dry!

(Joe brings what they asked for.)

The smart gentleman : - Well, my dear...Joe, this is for the meal. Keep the change.

The driver : - C’mon then, we’ll get back to the Merc. And in five minutes, you’ll be on your way.

Joe : - Safe journey!

The smart gentleman : - A thousand thanks, Mr Joe, and see you soon!

The driver : - See ya, mate!