

Fawlty Towers

Episode 1: A Touch of Class

Basil Fawlty is a hotel manager in an English town called Torquay. He doesn't like his guests and he speaks terrible Spanish! His wife, Sybil, likes ordering Basil to do things. Basil is obsessed with class and would rather have rich guests in his hotel than poor ones. Manuel, a Spanish waiter, works for the hotel but his life is made very difficult by Basil! They also have a hotel maid called Polly.

Requests:

Can you

Could you + INF

Would you

Would you mind + GERUND

Do you mind

If you would be so good/kind as to + INF

Make a note of some of the many examples you hear in this episode!

Vocabulary

Conman (n) - A person who gets to know someone and tricks them.

Confidence trickster (n) - A conman.

In a hurry (phr) - Go quickly.

Riff-raff (n) - Common people (negative)

Racket (n) - Loud, disturbing noise.

Tatty (adj) - Slang for old and worn

Value (v) - Evaluate how much sth. is worth.

Snob (n) - A person who looks down on others

Splendid (adj) - Fantastic / Excellent

To have a word (phr) - Speak / Chat

I beg your pardon? (phr) - I'm sorry? / What?

To cash a cheque (phr) - To convert a cheque into real money.

Lord - a male member of nobility in England

Phrasal Verbs:

Which six of these phrasal verbs do you hear in the episode?

- Get on (to have a good relationship)
- Put through (to connect on the telephone)
- Go away (imperative - leave!)
- Throw away (to put something in the bin)
- Pass away (to die)
- Turn away (to refuse entry / admittance)
- Fill in (to write information on a form)
- Turn up (to arrive / appear)
- Pick up (to learn something without trying / acquire casually)

"I learned classical Spanish, not the strange dialect he seems to have _____"

"If there's anything else, I'm sure Manuel will be able to tell you as you seem to _____ so well together."

Extra Vocabulary / Notes:

Questions:

- 1) What does Basil say is wrong with the trays?

- 2) What two things does Sybil want Basil to do?
 - a) hang the picture
 - b) clean room 7
 - c) write the menu
 - d) go to the bank

- 3) Why is Manuel confused in the scene with the grapefruit?

- 4) How much money does Lord Melbury want to cash?
 - a) £50
 - b) £100
 - c) £150
 - d) £200

- 5) What does Lord Melbury offer to do for Basil?
 - a) stay in Fawlty Towers every summer
 - b) value his British coin collection
 - c) make him a Lord

- 6) What does Polly tell Basil?
 - a) That Lord Melbury is a conman
 - b) That Manuel is rude to the customers
 - c) That Sybil is angry with him

- 7) Who is Mr Brown? Who does he work for?
 - a) the Queen
 - b) A rival hotel
 - c) The police

- 8) What's in Lord Melbury's case of 'valuables'?

- 9) What does the frustrated guest order at the bar (and never receive!)?