

# 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.

### Vocabulary

#### 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!***

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!)?