

Lesson 20: An Embarrassing Moment

Jim and Fred are at a restaurant, and a waitress comes to take their order. Listen to what happens and mark these statements "True" or "False."

Listening Comprehension

True or false according to the dialogue?

1. Jim orders a bowl of clam chowder
2. Fred orders one of today's specials
3. Both of them want tap water to drink
4. The waitress compliments Fred on his shirt
5. Fred is attracted to the waitress
6. It has been an easy week at work for Fred
7. Fred has been wearing this shirt for years
8. Fred bought the shirt himself
9. The collar of the shirt is uncomfortable
10. Fred becomes annoyed at Jim
11. Fred asks for the waitress' phone number

Conversation Text

Waitress: Welcome to Rudy's Diner! Our soup of the day is **clam chowder**, and our specials are **Cajun** chicken and **barbecue ribs**. What can I get for you guys?

Jim: I'd like the steak – **medium-rare** – with a side of potatoes.

Fred: And I'll have the Cajun chicken, with extra **hot** sauce on the side.

Waitress: All right, and anything to drink?

Jim: Just **tap water** for me.

Fred: A Diet Coke with no ice.

Waitress: Coming right up! Nice shirt, by the way.

Fred: Thank you!

Jim: That IS a nice shirt, Fred. Very **trendy**.

Fred: Thanks! You know, the waitress **couldn't take her eyes off me...** and she's pretty cute. You think I should ask for her number?

Jim: **Couldn't hurt to try**, when she comes back with the food.

Fred: Yeah, okay.

Jim: So... long day at work?

Vocabulary

clam chowder = a thick soup containing clams (a type of shellfish) in a milk or tomato base

Cajun = a type of cooking from the New Orleans area, which is usually spicy

barbecue ribs = "barbecue" refers to cooking meat over an open fire. "Ribs" are the bones and meat from the animal's side, near its heart/lungs

medium-rare = cooking the steak only until a point when it is still pink inside

hot = spicy (it doesn't refer to temperature here)

tap water = regular water from the faucet (not bottled water)

trendy = fashionable

couldn't take her eyes off me = continued to look at me

couldn't hurt to try = trying wouldn't have any negative result

Fred: Long week. I thought Friday would never come.

Jim: **Same here.** Hey, back to your shirt... is it new?

Fred: No, I've had it for years. First time I've worn it, though. Think I got it at a **thrift shop**... I dunno.

Jim: Huh. 'Cause I've never seen that **STYLE** of shirt before.

Fred: Oh! Now I remember – it was a gift from my Aunt Kay. **She's got an eye for fashion.**

Jim: Yeah... I'd never thought of how cool buttons can look on the back of a shirt.

Fred: Cool, but it makes the shirt hard to get into. I couldn't reach the upper buttons, so I had to ask my roommate to **give me a hand**.

Jim: **I bet.** And that **collar**. Man! It's very... **original**.

Fred: Yeah... I got a lot of compliments on it at work, but it's kinda uncomfortable. Been **tickling** my neck all day.

Jim: I guess that's **the price you pay** for being a **trend-setter**, huh? Actually, your tag's sticking out. Let me **tuck** that **in** for you.

Vocabulary

Same here = I feel the same way / I'm in the same situation

thrift shop = store that sells used clothing and items at low prices

She's got an eye for fashion = she has good taste / judgement regarding fashion

give me a hand = help me (especially with a physical task)

I bet = I'm completely sure

collar = the part of the shirt around your neck

original = new and creative, not like anything else

tickling = touching lightly so that it's uncomfortable or provokes laughter

the price you pay = the consequences

trend-setter = someone who establishes new fashions

tuck in = put part of some fabric/clothing inside another part

Fred: The tag? Oh, that's why it's been bothering me, it's—hey, **hold on a sec!**

Jim: Hahaha!

Fred: Where's the **men's room**? I'll be right back.

Jim (when Fred returns to the table): Well, it took you long enough. Had to ask someone for help with the buttons?

Fred: Why didn't you just tell me?! I feel like **an idiot**.

Jim: Where's the fun in that? I wanted to keep **dropping hints** until you noticed.

Fred: **Some friend YOU are.**

Waitress: OK, here's your steak and potatoes... and here's your Cajun chicken. Hey! Your shirt looks much better that way.

Fred: Uh, yeah.

Waitress: Enjoy your meal, guys!

Jim: **Smooth**... real smooth. Weren't you going to ask for her number? I can call her back over and ask for some extra napkins...

Fred: Forget it! As if she'd want to go out with some **doofus** who put his shirt on backwards.

Jim: Aw man, that was the funniest thing that's happened all week!

Fred: Easy for you to say. I've never been more embarrassed in my life.

Vocabulary

hold on a sec! = wait a second!

men's room = men's bathroom

an idiot = a stupid person

dropping hints = suggesting indirectly

Some friend YOU are = You're not a very good friend (Fred is speaking sarcastically)

smooth = (slang) well-done, socially elegant (Jim is speaking sarcastically)

doofus = (slang) incompetent person

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.

bet	give him a hand	idiot	tickling
can't hurt	got an eye for	price we pay	trendy
couldn't take my eyes off	hold on	smooth	tuck in
dropping hints	hot	tap	

1. As we were leaving, Linda asked me to _____ while she changed her shoes.
2. I made the baby laugh by _____ his stomach.
3. That painting was absolutely gorgeous. I _____ it.
4. I'm not sure if we're allowed to take pictures in the church, but it _____ to ask.
5. It takes us an hour to get to work, but that's the _____ for buying a house way outside the city.
6. Nobody has natural muscles that big. I _____ he's on steroids.
7. She hasn't broken up with her boyfriend yet, but she's been _____ that she's unhappy in the relationship.
8. The chili is pretty _____; you'll definitely want a drink to wash it down.
9. I saw an old man struggling with some heavy shopping bags, so I went over to _____.
10. The _____ water in this country isn't safe to use - not even for brushing your teeth.
11. You should ask Brian to look over your design. He's _____ detail.
12. The fire was caused by some _____ who tossed a lit cigarette into a garbage can filled with dry newspaper.

Speaking Task

Tell a funny story that has happened to you, or to a friend. It doesn't necessarily have to be embarrassing, just amusing or interesting. Describe the situation in detail – record your story at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or send the MP3 to homework@espressoenglish.net for feedback!

Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. False
9. True
10. True
11. False

Vocabulary Quiz

1. hold on
2. tickling
3. couldn't take my eyes off
4. can't hurt
5. price we pay
6. bet
7. dropping hints
8. hot
9. give him a hand
10. tap
11. got an eye for
12. idiot