

Teacher's notes and answer key

Level: Intermediate and above

Age: Adults

Time needed: 45 minutes plus

Procedure: Activities 1 and 2 on the student worksheets should be completed before students listen to the play. The rest of the activities can be completed during and after listening. The 'Twelve top tips' will give you extra ideas for using the plays in the classroom.

Note: The conversation between the two people in this play touches on some relatively adult themes, so please think carefully about whether it is appropriate to use with your students. We recommend that it is used with students who are mature enough to discuss the subject matter in a balanced way.

Notes

1. When Andy says, 'Been done for possession ...', this means he's been arrested for possession of illegal drugs.
2. The reference to Page 3, is a reference to newspapers like the *Sun* (a British tabloid newspaper), which usually have a picture of a topless female on page 3.
3. It is quite common in colloquial English for men to refer to *the wife* rather than *my wife*.
4. 'Arris, via a complex route, is Cockney rhyming slang. 'Arris is short for *Aristotle*. *Aristotle*, in turn, is short for *bottle*. *Bottle* is short for *bottle and glass*, which is Cockney rhyming slang for *arse*. So, 'arris is a relatively polite way of saying *arse*.
5. The 'back pages' are the sports pages.
6. 'Who does he think he's flashing?' is a complaint about the driver of another vehicle who has flashed his headlights at Andy and George, presumably because they are partially blocking the road

Twelve top tips

1. Take away the title of the play. Students try to guess the context. Who? Where? Why? What?
2. Ask students to describe the appearance, personality and social status of the characters in the play.



3. Cut the play up into four sections. Students then put it back in the correct sequence.
4. Supply several statements of fact or opinion about the play. Ask students to assess whether each one follows from the play, supports it, contradicts it or is assumed.
5. Use the play alongside a onestopenglish news lesson or a news article on a similar subject and hold a debate and discussion on the topic to link the content with students' experience or knowledge.
6. Students add their own stage directions, e.g. ... *he said angrily – rising from his chair*.
7. Students can finish the play off in their own words or change its ending.
8. Students interpret the play, perform it and then record and listen to themselves for correct use of stress and intonation.
9. Students perform the play using the same words but in different styles, e.g. a romance, a ghost story, a thriller, etc.
10. Students identify vocabulary that has a negative connotation.
11. Students identify the word/phrase/phrasal verb that means ...
12. Take an adjective or adverb out of a sentence and put it in brackets at the end of the line. Students put it back in the correct place or wherever it will logically fit, for example:
You have to know the places to go. [RIGHT]
You have to know the right places to go.

Teacher's notes and answer key

Answer key

1. Complete the extract

1. stars; 2. rubbish; 3. sign; 4. bull; 5. load

2. Vocabulary

1. c; 2. f; 3. a; 4. e; 5. b; 6. d

3. Find the colloquial expression

1. be done for; 2. lay one on; 3. drivel; 4. sucker;
5. spoiled brats; 6. back to the grindstone

4. Colloquial language: Ellipsis

1. He's been done for possession, hasn't he?
2. I didn't know you could read.
3. He's probably telling you to stop blocking the road.
4. You can't beat it.
5. It shouldn't be allowed.
6. Did you read your stars?

5. Discussion: Topic

There are a number of topics mentioned during George and Andy's conversation. Suggested topics could include celebrities, tabloid newspapers, astrology, laziness, relationships, bad drivers. The main topic of their conversation is probably celebrities, as they begin by talking about one who has been arrested for possession of drugs, go on to mention publicity, paparazzi, etc., and then discuss a footballer's indiscretions. It could be argued that the men are lazy but, as George points out, it is their lunch break. Bad drivers are mentioned, but only in passing.

Transcript

Scenario: Two workmen sit in a roadworks truck near Dartford

Characters: George, Andy

- George** Scandalous!
- Andy** What?
- George** Here, look. Look at him!
- Andy** Oh yeah, front page headlines in yesterday's *Sun*. Been done for possession, hasn't he?
- George** How do you know? Didn't know you could read.
- Andy** Oi! I'll lay one on you! I look at the pictures, don't I?
- George** You only look at Page 3!
- Andy** What other reason is there for being a *Sun* reader? Don't tell the wife.
- George** How these celebrities can take drugs and still do an honest day's work, I'll never know.
- Andy** It's all the stress they're under. You know, the paparazzi and that. It's very difficult making sure you get your picture in the national press nowadays. You have to know the right places to go!
- George** Give me the simple life any day. 'Ere, who's he think he's flashing?
- Andy** Probably telling you to stop blocking the road and get your lazy 'arris back to work!
- George** That's just too bad. I'm on my lunch break thanks very much! I know my rights.
- Andy** Come on. Give us the back pages, will you?
- George** Go on then. I'm more into the gossip column, me. Can't beat it.
- Andy** Brightens up your dreary life, does it? Takes you away from the monotony of your own life, does it?
- George** No, it's just comforting to know that my life isn't as bad as theirs! With all the money they earn as well.
- Andy** Surely you don't believe all that drivel?
- George** Well, er ... not always. Anyway what about that United player? Your jaw dropped when you read about all his 'romantic liaisons'!
- Andy** Oh well, that's different. They interviewed all the women he's slept with. They gave 'em all the lurid details!
- George** Sucker! And another thing – look how much they get paid! It's sickening. Shouldn't be allowed. A bunch of spoiled brats, that's what they are.
- Andy** Another flash, George.
- George** 'Aven't drunk my tea yet.
- Andy** You read your stars?
- George** No. Don't believe in that rubbish.
- Andy** What's your sign?
- George** Taurus – the bull.
- Andy** Sagittarius, me. Load of rubbish!
- George** Oh well, back to the grindstone.
- Andy** Another hour and it'll be dark. Apparently I'm in for a surprise tonight.
- George** How d'you know?
- Andy** It's all in the stars, George, all in the stars!

Worksheet

1 Complete the extract

Here is a short extract from the play. Fill the gaps using these words. Then check your answers in the play.

bull sign stars load rubbish

1. **Andy** You read your _____?
2. **George** No. Don't believe in that _____.
3. **Andy** What's your _____?
4. **George** Taurus – the _____.
5. **Andy** Sagittarius, me. _____ of rubbish!

2 Vocabulary

Match these words from the text with their meanings.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. paparazzi | a. start looking or feeling happier |
| 2. dreary | b. part of a newspaper about famous people's private lives |
| 3. brighten up | c. photographers who follow famous people |
| 4. lurid | d. a sexual relationship |
| 5. gossip column | e. full of unpleasant or sexual details that are meant to shock you |
| 6. liaison | f. making you feel bored and unhappy |

3 Find the colloquial expression

Listen to the play and find the following words and phrases. Note that they are in the order in which they appear in the play.

1. a three-word expression meaning *to be arrested/prosecuted for*
2. a three-word expression meaning *punch very hard*
3. a noun meaning *stupid and unimportant things that someone says or writes*
4. a noun meaning *someone who is easily tricked or persuaded to do something*
5. a two-word expression meaning *annoying children who behave badly if they don't get what they want*
6. a four-word expression meaning *back to work*

Worksheet

4 Colloquial language: Ellipsis

Which words are missing from these examples from the play?

1. Been done for possession, hasn't he?
2. Didn't know you could read.
3. Probably telling you to stop blocking the road ...
4. Can't beat it.
5. Shouldn't be allowed.
6. You read your stars?

5 Discussion: Topic

What topics to George and Andy talk about during their conversation? Mention at least three.

6 Listen and speak

Listen to the recording and read the play aloud in time with the recording.