Monkeys

(or: A Bit of a Misunderstanding?)

Tutor: It made me laugh, anyway!

*Student: I don’t remember the story very well.*

It was a while ago.

*Wasn’t it about Bill and Pete?*

Yes. Bill and Pete.

*Mmmm.*

And a whole lot of monkeys.

*Monkeys?*

Yes.

*Monkeys?*

Maybe I should explain.

*Maybe you should.*

Well, it all began early one morning.

*Right.*

Last summer.

*Yes. OK.*

When Pete was working as an odd job man.

*So was Bill. They both were.*

Yes. They were.

*So what happened?*

Well, it was early in the morning.

*In the summer. You said.*

Pete was driving towards town.

*OK.*

On the bypass.

*Right.*

And he spots Bill’s van by the side of the road.

*By the side of the road?*

Yes. Up on the grass.

*Probably broken down.*

It was.

*And Bill hasn’t a clue.*

No. He doesn’t, really.

*Hasn’t a clue.*

No idea about stuff like that.

*And now his van’s broken down.*

So it’s lucky Pete spots him.

*Probably with the bonnet up.*

Yes. It was.

*He was probably peering at the engine.*

Yes. He was.

*Probably looking worried.*

You know how Bill is!

*Yes. Always worried.*

Anyway, Pete pulls up behind Bill’s van and gets out.

*Bill must have been well pleased to see him.*

I expect he was.

*So what happened next?*

Well, Pete asked Bill if he’s OK.

*The way you do.*

“You alright, Mate?” he says.

*And Bill probably says “Well, not really. The van’s broken down.”*

And it turns out he had an important job on.

*Who? Bill?*

Yes. Bill. He had an important job on.

*What was that?*

The monkeys.

*Monkeys?*

That’s exactly what Pete said. “Monkeys?” He said.

*Mmmm…*

“Monkeys?” He said.

*So what did Bill say?*

Well, he said he had some monkeys in the van.

*What was he doing with them?*

Taking them to the wildlife park.

*Oh?*

From the Zoo

*Oh.*

Five of them.

*But now his van’s broken down.*

Yes.

*And it’s full of monkeys.*

Which have to be in the wildlife park that day.

*Bill must have been worried.*

Well, yes, he was.

*What’s he to do with the monkeys?*

Right.

*How will he get them to the wildlife park now?*

That’s exactly what he asked Pete.

*I bet he did.*

“How am I going to get these monkeys to the wildlife park now?” He said.

*And what did Pete say?*

He said “Why don’t I take them for you?”

*Bill was probably not very keen.*

No.

*He’s been all the way to the Zoo to get these monkeys!*

Got up early to get there first thing.

*Mmmm…*

And now he’s going to lose the job.

*But they’ve got to be in the wildlife park that day.*

Yes.

*So what does Bill say?*

He’s got no choice, really.

*No, not really.*

He asks Pete how much money he wants.

*To take the monkeys to the park?*

Yes.

*And what does Pete say?*

He says he’ll do it for £100.

*£100?*

Yes.

*That’s a bit steep, isn’t it?*

Well, I think so.

*It’s only a few miles!*

That’s what Bill said.

*I bet he did.*

In the end, Pete did it for £75.

*That’s still a lot of money.*

Yes.

*For a little job like that.*

Well, I think so.

*So what happened next?*

Well, the monkeys were in the back of Bill’s van.

*How many were there?*

Five. Five monkeys. All in little cages.

*So they put them into Pete’s van.*

Yes.

*And off he goes.*

Yes. Off goes Pete towards the wildlife park.

*What happened to Bill, then?*

Well, he tried to start the van one more time.

*Just in case.*

Yes. Just in case.

*And?*

And he saw that there was no diesel in it.

*What?*

The tank was empty.

*The tank was empty?*

Yes.

*There was nothing wrong with the van?*

No.

*It had just run out of diesel?*

Exactly.

*The van was OK?*

Perfectly OK.

*So what did Bill do then?*

Well, he went to get a can of diesel.

*He walked to a petrol station?*

That’s all he could do, really.

*There aren’t many on the bypass.*

No.

*It must have taken him a while.*

Yes. It did.

*But then the van started OK?*

Yes. Fine. No problem.

*And what did Bill do then?*

Not much he could do.

*Too late to get the monkeys back off Pete.*

Much too late.

*So what happened next?*

Well, he headed for town.

*Right.*

He wanted a birthday present for his sister.

*So he heads into town.*

Yes.

*He parks the van.*

Yes.

*Sets off round the shops.*

Yes.

*And?*

Well he can’t find anything to buy his sister, so he’s thinking of going home.

*OK. And?*

Well, he’s walking towards the car park …

*And then?*

Then he spots Pete again.

*Pete?*

Yes.

*In the shopping centre?*

And the monkeys.

*And the monkeys?*

Yes.

*Pete and the monkeys are in the shopping centre?*

Yes.

*They’re supposed to be in the wildlife park!*

Well yes. The monkeys are, anyway.

*Not in the shopping centre.*

No.

*What are they doing?*

Walking along.

*Just walking along?*

Yes. Hand in hand.

*Walking along hand in hand?*

One monkey is holding Pete’s hand.

*Right…*

That monkey is holding the next one’s hand.

*Right…*

And so on.

*A line of monkeys holding each other by the hand?*

And Pete.

*Yes, and Pete.*

The monkeys are really interested.

*I bet they are.*

They watch all the people.

*I bet they do.*

They look into all the shop windows.

*I can just see them.*

They chatter to each other as they walk along.

*I can just hear them.*

A line of five monkeys.

*And Pete.*

Yes. And Pete.

*So what did Bill say?*

Mmmm?

*What did Bill say?*

When?

*When he saw Pete and the monkeys!*

Oh. Well…

*He must have been gobsmacked!*

A bit annoyed, too.

*Well, yes, I suppose so.*

Dead annoyed, really.

*The monkeys are supposed to be in the wildlife park.*

Yes.

*Not in the shopping centre.*

No.

*So what did Bill say?*

“Pete!” He said. “What are you doing here with the monkeys?”

*Pete must have been a bit embarrassed.*

You’d think so, wouldn’t you?

*He said he’d take the monkeys to the wildlife park.*

That’s what Bill said.

*I bet he did.*

He said “Pete! You said you’d take these monkeys to the wildlife park!”

*Well, he did.*

“I gave you £75 to do it!” Bill said.

*He must have been angry.*

He was.

*And Pete must have been embarrassed!*

Well, no.

*No?*

That’s the funny thing.

*Oh?*

Pete was very happy.

*Happy?*

Apparently.

*Happy?*

He was grinning from ear to ear.

*Grinning from ear to ear?*

Happy as Larry.

*Mmmm...*

“I told you to take these monkeys to the wildlife park!” Bill said.

*Well, yes. He did!*

“I gave you £75 to take these monkeys to the wildlife park!”

*Well, he did.*

“What’s going on?” Bill said.

*And what did Pete say?*

“Well” he said, “We’ve been to the wildlife park.”

*What?*

“It was excellent.” He said.

*Excellent?*

“We had a lot of fun.”

*Had a lot of fun? What do you mean?*

That’s what Bill said!

*I bet he did!*

“What do you mean, you had a lot of fun?” He said.

*And what did Pete say?*

He said it was always good fun in the wildlife park.

*What did Bill say then?*

He said “Yes, but what are you doing in town, now?

*With the monkeys.*

Exactly. “What are you doing in town, now, with the monkeys?”

*And what did Pete say?*

He said “Well, we’ve still got some of that £75 left, so we’re off to see a film!”