Joe

(Does everyone know Joe?)

Student: Do you remember Joe?

*Tutor: Hmmmm?*

Joe. Do you remember him?

*Of course I remember Joe. Why?*

Well, I was thinking about him

*Oh?*

This morning.

*What were you thinking about?*

Well, some of the things we did.

*Like?*

Well, that time in London.

*That time he went into Buckingham Palace?*

Yes.

*I remember that.*

It seems long ago now.

*Well, it was.*

Do you remember how annoyed we were?

*With Joe?*

Sometimes, anyway.

*Mmm…*

Sometimes we got very annoyed with Joe, didn’t we?

*Well, sometimes he was very annoying.*

Sometimes he was. It’s true.

*When he said he knew everyone.*

Yes, exactly.

*That was annoying.*

He always said he knew everyone.

*Whoever we were talking about.*

Joe said he knew them.

*Yes.*

He did it all the time.

*It didn’t matter who it was.*

It didn’t matter how famous they were.

*It didn’t matter who we were talking about.*

Joe said he knew them.

*Which was quite annoying.*

It was very annoying.

*To begin with it was funny.*

Well, yes, to begin with…

*We just thought it was funny. To begin with.*

Yes.

*But then it began to get a bit annoying.*

And in the end it was really annoying.

*Joe seemed to know everybody.*

Or said he did, anyway.

*Always.*

Yes. Always.

*We thought he was taking the mick.*

Like when he said he knew the Beckhams.

*We were talking about them one day.*

The way you do.

*And Joe said he was good mates with “Becks”.*

Said he often had dinner with “Becks and Vicky”.

*Called them “Becks and Vicky”.*

We thought it was ridiculous.

*How would Joe know the Beckhams?*

Then there was the Prime Minister.

*Yes.*

The Prime Minister!

*You said something about 10 Downing Street…*

And Joe said “Well, the last time I had dinner in number 10 ......”

*I remember the look on your face!*

“What!” I thought. “That’s crazy!”

*Joe, in number 10 Downing Street!*

Eating dinner in number 10.

*Eating dinner with the Prime Minister!*

It seemed impossible.

*How would Joe know the Prime Minister?*

We thought it was ridiculous.

*We didn’t believe a word of it.*

Not a word.

*We laughed at him.*

Well, yes, sometimes we did.

*It seemed so ridiculous.*

And he got a bit miffed about that.

*He did, didn’t he?*

Mmmmm….

*Mind you, we were sometimes a bit miffed too.*

Well yes! We were.

*When we thought it was nonsense.*

Like, a trick.

*Like he was taking the mick.*

Making us look silly.

*So we were miffed.*

Sometimes.

*Then we were talking about Lady Gaga.*

And Joe said he knew her.

*Lady Gaga!*

How would Joe know Lady Gaga?

*You were saying how good her show had been.*

I’d seen her show in London.

*That’s why we were talking about her.*

And Joe said she had been very nervous.

*And you said “Hang on!”*

How would Joe know that?

*Well, how would he?*

Ridiculous!

*But Joe said he had been backstage with her.*

Been in her dressing room with her.

*Before she went on.*

We just laughed.

*Joe, backstage with Lady Gaga!*

We thought it was nonsense.

*Couldn’t believe it.*

He got quite cross with us.

*So we stopped laughing.*

We still couldn’t believe it, though.

*No.*

Didn’t believe a word of it.

*No.*

Then we were talking about the Queen.

*And Joe said something about “Lizzie” ……*

He called the Queen “Lizzie”!

*Said he knew her well.*

Yes.

*Her and Prince Philip.*

He called them “Lizzie and Phil”.

*He said he knew them really well.*

We thought it was ridiculous.

*None of us believed a word of it.*

It was too ridiculous.

*But Joe said he often spent time with them.*

Weekends in the palace.

*Holidays in Balmoral.*

And you got so cross.

*Yes. I remember.*

 You said he had gone too far this time.

*I was really cross.*

You thought he was taking the mick.

*I did!*

You said he couldn’t possibly know the Royal Family.

*I said we didn’t believe a word of it.*

Not a word.

*So you said he had to prove it, this time.*

Mmm…

*Prove he knew the Queen.*

He’d have to show us he knew the Queen.

*If he wanted us to believe his stories.*

He’d have to show us.

*But we couldn’t think how.*

No.

*How could he show us?*

Then you came up with a plan.

*Because the Jubilee was coming up.*

The Queen’s jubilee.

*She’d been 50 years on the throne.*

You said, “We’ll all go to London.

*We’ll all go up to see the Queen.*

 And Joe can show us he knows the Royal Family.”

*And we decided how.*

How he could show us.

*The Royal Family was going to appear on the balcony.*

Because it was the jubilee.

*They were going to appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.*

As part of the jubilee.

*They were going to wave to the people and all that.*

So you thought of this plan.

*A plan which would test Joe.*

It would test whether he really did know the Royal Family.

*Which we didn’t believe.*

No.

*So what we did was go to London.*

All of us.

*Yes. All of us.*

With Joe.

*That’s right.*

We stood in front of Buckingham Palace.

*In the crowd.*

Mmm…

*As close as we could get.*

Well, you couldn’t get all that close.

*No, but you could see.*

Just about.

*And we told Joe that we’d believe him if he appeared on the balcony.*

With the Royal Family.

*Yes.*  With the Royal family. On the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

We said we’d believe all his stories if he could do that.

*He didn’t seem bothered.*

No, he didn’t.

*He just smiled, the way Joe did.*

Then he said “OK”.

*And off he went.*

He did.

*Towards the palace.*

Went off through the crowd.

*Towards the palace gates.*

Yes.

*And after a while the Royal Family came out.*

They did.

*Onto the balcony.*

Very smart.

*They were smiling and waving.*

Everyone started to cheer.

*And we watched to see if we could see Joe.*

And there he was!

*On the balcony!*

With the Royal Family!

*Standing there with the Royal Family.*

Waving to the crowds below.

*Just like a Royal.*

Right alongside the Queen!

*Our Joe.*

Right alongside the Queen.

*We were gobsmacked!*

Absolutely gobsmacked!

*But then you got suspicious.*

Well, it seemed impossible.

*Ridiculous.*

Yes. It seemed absolutely ridiculous.

*You began to wonder.*

Was that really the Royal Family up there?

*It looked like them.*

But you never know.

*You thought it might be a trick.*

I did.

*So you asked a bloke standing beside you.*

He was standing right beside me.

*I remember him.*

Nice bloke.

*We’d been chatting a bit while we waited.*

Yes.

*Italian, he was.*

Yes.

*From Rome.*

Yes. But he spoke very good English.

*You asked him if that really was the Royal Family up there.*

I said “Can you tell me if that really is the Royal Family up there?”

*And he looked a bit surprised.*

Well, it is a strange thing to ask.

*Mmm…*

But he took a good look.

*He did.*

And then he said “Yes. It is.”

*And you said “Are you sure?”*

And he said “Yes. It looks like the Royal Family to me.”

*You asked again if he was sure.*

And he said yes, he was pretty sure.

*And you said “Oh”.*

Yes.

*And you asked again.*

I said “You’re sure that it’s the Royal Family up there”?

*And he said “Yes, pretty sure”.*

But then he said the most amazing thing.

*He did.*

He said “One thing I can tell you for sure.”

*And you said “Oh?”*

And he said “Yes. For sure.”

*And you said “Oh?” again.*

And he said “One thing I know for sure.”

*And you said “What’s that?”*

And he said “That’s Joe up there with them.”