
The Check-in desk

Scene: The Elephant Airlines desk

Characters: The check-in clerk (Clerk)
 An English traveller (Traveller)
 Captain Strange, a pilot (Captain)

Traveller enters, carrying small bag

Clerk: Good morning, sir. Can I help you?

Traveller: Monte Carlo!

Clerk: Pardon?

Traveller: Monte Carlo!

Clerk: Oh! Hello, Mr Carlo!

Traveller: No, no. I want to *fly* to Monte Carlo.

Clerk: Oh I see!

Traveller: Can I check in here?

Clerk: For the flight to Monte Carlo?

Traveller: Yes.

Clerk: Who are you flying with?

Traveller: Pardon?

Clerk: Who are you flying with?

Traveller: Nobody. I'm going by myself.

Clerk: No, sir. I mean, which *airline* are you flying with?

Traveller: Oh! Elephant Airlines.

Clerk: Can I see your ticket?

Traveller: Yes. Here you are.

Clerk: Thank you.

Traveller: This is my first flight, you know.

Clerk: Well, I'm sure you'll enjoy it. (***Reading ticket***) Elephant Airlines, flight 999 to Monte Carlo.

Traveller: Er ... why is it called Elephant Airlines?

Clerk: Well, sir, the planes are very big ...

Traveller: **(Impressed)** Really?

Clerk: ... They move very slowly ...

Traveller: **(Apprehensive)** Really?

Clerk: And they make a strange noise.

Traveller: A strange noise?

Clerk: Yes. They make a noise like an elephant.

Clerk makes elephant noise

Traveller: Your planes sound like elephants?!?

Clerk: Yes, sir.

Traveller: But – but – but!!!

Clerk: Don't worry, sir. They're quite safe. **(Reading from ticket)** Now ... Mister Right.

Traveller: Pardon?

Clerk: Mr Right.

Traveller: No, that's wrong.

Clerk: Pardon?

Traveller: My name isn't Right. It's wrong.

Clerk: Your name is Wrong?

Traveller: Yes.

Clerk: Well, Mr Wrong —

Traveller: No! My name isn't right *on the ticket*.

Clerk: Yes, it is. Look. Mr Right.

Traveller: No! My name *isn't* Right!

Clerk: Oh! Your name isn't Right!

Traveller: Right!

Clerk: Right! What is your name?

Traveller: Watt.

Clerk: Your name.

Traveller: Watt!!

Clerk: What is your name?

Traveller: Yes! Watt *is* my name!

Clerk: Ah! Right!

Traveller: No! Watt!

Clerk: Right! Watt!

Traveller: Yes. **(Points at ticket)** Write Watt on the ticket.

Clerk corrects name on the ticket

Clerk: Fine. Everything seems to be in order. Now, your seat.

Traveller: Yes?

Clerk: Where is it?

Traveller: Pardon?

Clerk: Where's your seat?

Traveller: My seat?

Clerk: Yes. Haven't you got one?

Traveller: Aren't there any seats on the plane?

Clerk: **(Laughing)** Seats?!? On the plane?!?

Traveller: Yes.

Clerk: No. You have to take your own.

Traveller: Oh. I'm afraid I haven't got a seat.

Clerk: No seat?

Traveller: No.

Clerk: You've come to the airport without a seat???

Traveller: Well, it *is* my first flight.

Clerk: Well, never mind. You can borrow my seat.

Clerk gives traveller her chair

Traveller: But wait a minute! This isn't an aeroplane seat, is it?

Clerk: It's a seat — you put it on an aeroplane — it's an aeroplane seat.

Traveller: What about a seat belt?

Clerk: Here you are.

Clerk gives traveller a belt

Traveller: Is this really a seatbelt?

Clerk: It's a belt — you put it on a seat — it's a seatbelt.

Traveller: ***(Doubtfully)*** I see.

Clerk: And here's your boarding pass.

Traveller: Is that everything?

Clerk: Yes sir.

Traveller: Where do I go now?

Clerk: To the Departure Gate. Gate 13.

Traveller: Thank you.

Clerk: Have a good flight, sir.

Traveller: Thank you.

Traveller starts to walk away. Clerk starts laughing.

Traveller: What's the matter?

Clerk: I'm sorry, sir! You didn't believe all that, did you?

Traveller: All what?

Clerk: All that about the seat and the seat belt.

Traveller: What do you mean?

Clerk: Sir ... it was all a joke.

Traveller: A joke?

Clerk: Yes. You see, you are the one millionth passenger to fly with Elephant Airlines, so we thought we'd have a bit of fun!

Traveller: Oh. Oh! So it's not true!

Clerk: No, sir! Flying isn't like that!

Traveller: I thought it was a bit strange!

Clerk: Yes, sir.

Traveller: But it *is* my first flight.

Clerk: Yes, sir.

Traveller: You must think I'm a complete idiot!

Clerk: Yes, sir! Anyway, you're the one millionth passenger, so the captain himself is going to take you to the plane.

Traveller: The captain? You mean the pilot himself?

Clerk: Yes.

Traveller: That's wonderful!

Clerk: I'll call him! Captain Strange.

Enter Captain Strange, singing 'Fly Me To The Moon' or something similar. He looks strange. He also appears to be very short-sighted.

Traveller: Is *that* the captain???

Clerk: Yes, sir. Captain Strange is the best pilot with Elephant Airlines.

Traveller: Really????

Clerk: Yes. In fact, he's the *only* pilot with Elephant Airlines. Er ... Captain Strange?

Captain: ***(Looking around myopically)*** Yes?

Clerk: This is Mr Watt, your very special passenger for today's flight.

Captain: ***(Shaking hands vigorously with Clerk)*** Mr Watt!

Clerk: No - THIS is Mr Watt.

Captain: ***(Shaking hands vigorously with Mr Watt)*** Ah, yes! Mr Watt! How nice to meet you. How very, very, VERY nice!

Clerk: You go with the captain, Mr Watt. He'll take you to the plane.

Captain: The plane, yes. Where is it?

Traveller: What?

Captain: Where's the plane?

Traveller: I don't know!

Clerk: It's at Gate 13, captain.

Captain: Thank you. Tell me, Mr Watt, have you ever flown a plane before?

Traveller: No! Why?

Captain: Well, I'm not feeling very well, today. I thought perhaps *you* could fly the plane.

Traveller: Me?!?

Captain: Don't worry, Mr Watt. Flying a plane is easy.

Traveller: But – but -- but!!

Captain: Come on, Mr Watt, let's go!

Captain leads Mr Watt away

Traveller: Aaaargh!

Clerk: Another satisfied customer!

Exit clerk