

The Fire Station



Characters

The Fire Chief

Boggins

Coggins

Foggins

(Boggins, Coggins and Foggins are new firefighter recruits)

There should be a table with a telephone on it. The telephone should be old-fashioned, with a receiver and a rest

The Fire Chief should be played by a man, because of the section where he speaks falsetto, impersonating an old lady (pp7-8)

To begin, the Fire Chief addresses the audience

Fire Chief: Good *[evening]*, ladies and gentlemen. I am the Fire Chief of the *[London]* Fire Department, and I am here today to talk to you about fire. Now, fire is very dangerous — especially when it's hot —

He is interrupted by loud off-stage knocking

Fire Chief: Excuse me. Come in!

Enter Foggins, preferably dressed in T-shirt and jeans, and carrying a small bucket

Foggins: Hello!

Fire Chief: Can I help you?

Foggins: Yes, I want a job.

Fire Chief: You want a job?

Foggins: Yes, I want to be a firefighter.

Fire Chief: You want to be a firefighter?

Foggins: That's right.

Fire Chief: What's your name?

Foggins: Foggins.

Fire Chief: Foggins.

Foggins: Yes. Keith Foggins.

Fire Chief: Keith Foggins. Well, Mr Foggins, a question: why do you think you could be a good firefighter?

Foggins: Well, I'm big ...

Fire Chief: Yes.

Foggins: ... I'm strong ...

Fire Chief: Yes.

Foggins: ... And I've got my own bucket.

Foggins holds up small bucket

Fire Chief: I see. Well, Mr Foggins, do you know anything about the Fire Service? For example, what is ... the most important part of a firefighter's equipment?

Foggins: What is ... the meaning of the word 'equipment'?

Fire Chief: 'Equipment' ... you, know, 'things'. What is the most important thing a firefighter's got?

Foggins: A bucket!

Fire Chief: Wrong!

Foggins: What is it, then?

Fire Chief: (*Indicating phone on table*) A telephone.

Foggins: A telephone?!

Fire Chief: Yes, Foggins.

Foggins: You can't carry water in a telephone!

Fire Chief: That's right, Foggins. But ... (*Picks up telephone*) ... when this telephone rings, someone is in trouble. When this telephone rings, someone needs help. When this telephone rings, someone needs the Fire Station.

Telephone rings. Fire Chief continues to speak

Fire Chief: And when this telephone rings, Foggins, we don't stop for a second! We get out there and we find the fire! And we do it now, Foggins, now!

Fire Chief lifts phone receiver

Fire Chief: Not now, I'm busy!

Fire chief replaces phone receiver

So, Foggins, the most important part of our equipment is ...

Foggins: The telephone!

Fire Chief: Correct!

Fire Chief replaces phone on table

Fire Chief: So, you want to be a firefighter.

Foggins: Yes, please!

Fire Chief: Well, we are looking for new firefighters. So you can have a job.

Foggins: Oh, great!

Fire Chief: Would you like to meet the other new firefighters?

Foggins: Yes, please,

Fire Chief: Go and stand over there.

Foggins takes up position and stands to attention

Fire Chief: It's time for fire practice. So, fire practice — begin!

Fire chief blows whistle. Enter Boggins and Coggins, marching, saying 'Hup! Hup! Hup!' as they march. They stand in line next to Foggins. They are now standing, left to right, Boggins, Coggins, Foggins. The fire chief is standing to the left, next to Boggins

Fire Chief: Boggins!

Boggins: Yes, Chief!

Fire Chief: Coggins!

Coggins: Yes, Chief!

Fire Chief: Foggins:!

Foggins: What?

Fire Chief: Foggins, meet Boggins and Coggins.

The three recruits shake hands with each other

Fire Chief: Now — a question. Coggins!

Coggins: Yes, Chief?

Fire Chief: What should you do if there's a fire in your house?

Coggins: Go to the house next door, Chief!

Fire Chief: No, Coggins! You should telephone the Fire Station!

Coggins: Good idea, Chief!

Fire Chief: And that's where we start work, because the most important part of our equipment is ...

B/C/F: The telephone!

Fire Chief: Yes. So, telephone practice: Begin!

Fire Chief blows whistle

Fire Chief: Boggins!

Boggins: Yes Chief?

Fire Chief: Get the telephone!

Boggins: Yes, Chief!

Boggins picks up the phone from the table

Fire Chief: Give the telephone to Coggins.

Boggins: ***(Unhappily)*** Yes, Chief ...

Boggins reluctantly gives the phone to Coggins

Fire Chief: Coggins!

Boggins: Yes, Chief?

Fire Chief: You are the telephone.

Coggins: Thank you, Chief..

Fire Chief: Foggins?

Foggins: What?

Fire Chief: You are the telephone bell.

Foggins: What do you mean?

Fire Chief: When I blow my whistle, you make a ringing noise.
Telephone practice, begin!

Fire Chief blows his whistle; Foggins makes an ambulance noise

Fire Chief: Not an ambulance, Foggins! A telephone! Start again.

Fire Chief blows his whistle again

Foggins: ***(Looking annoyed)*** Ring, ring. Ring, ring. Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: Boggins?

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins: Yes, Chief?

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: The telephone's ringing.

Foggins: Ring, ring. Ring, ring.

Boggins: ***(Looking at Foggins)*** No, it isn't.

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins: It's Foggins.

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins: He's going 'Ring, ring'.

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: Boggins! Answer the telephone!

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins: But it isn't ringing!

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins: It's Foggins!

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: Well, answer the Foggins!

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Boggins picks up the telephone

Foggins: Ring, ring. Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: Foggins!

Foggins: Ring - What?

Fire Chief: Stop it!

Foggins: Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrr (***Disconnected sound***)

Boggins: (***Replacing receiver***) Nobody there, Chief.

Fire Chief: (***Looking annoyed***) Let's start again. (***Blows whistle***)

Foggins: Ring, ring. Ring, ring. Ring r--

Boggins: (***Picking up receiver***): Hello?

Fire Chief: (***Prompting***) Fire station.

Boggins: Oh hello, fire station!

Fire Chief: No, Boggins! You are the fire station!

Boggins: Oh, sorry, Chief.

Fire Chief: Continue.

Boggins: Hello! Fire station!

Fire Chief: (***Falsetto***) Help! Help!

Boggins: (***To the phone***) Wait a minute. (***To Fire Chief***) Is there something wrong, Chief?

Fire Chief: What do you *think* is wrong?

Foggins: Your trousers?

Fire Chief: Boggins! I'm an old lady!

Boggins: Really?

Fire Chief: No, not really. For this practice! I'm an old lady, and my house is on fire. That is why I'm calling the Fire Station!

Boggins: Oh I see!

Fire Chief: Start again.

Foggins: Ring, ring.

Fire Chief: Not you, Foggins! Boggins!

Boggins: (***On phone***) Hello, old lady. Can I help you?

Fire Chief: (***Falsetto***) Yes! There's a fire in my kitchen!

Boggins: OK - we're on our way!

***Boggins replaces receiver
The Fire Chief doesn't notice this and continues
speaking as an old lady***

Fire Chief: (***Falsetto***) And the flames are getting higher and higher ...

Fire Chief notices that Coggins has put down the phone

Boggins: Was that all right, Chief?

Fire Chief: Boggins?

Boggins: Yes, Chief?

Fire Chief: Where is the fire?

Boggins: In the old lady's kitchen.

Fire Chief: And where is the old lady's kitchen?

Boggins: In the old lady's house.

Fire Chief: And where is the old lady's house?

Boggins: In the ... Oh dear.

The phone rings - this has to be an off-stage effect

Fire Chief: Boggins! The telephone!

Boggins lifts the receiver

Boggins: Hello? Yes...yes...yes...yes...yes...yes... OK --

Boggins replaces the receiver

-- we're on our way!

Fire Chief: Well done, Boggins. What is it?

Boggins: It's a fire!

Fire Chief: A fire!

Boggins: Yes, Chief.

Fire Chief: Did you get the name?

Boggins: Yes, Chief.

Fire Chief: And the address?

Boggins: Yes, Chief.

Fire Chief: Do you know how to get there?

Boggins: Yes, Chief.

Fire Chief: Well done, Boggins: Right, everyone! In line and don't panic!
This is your first fire. So, Boggins — where is the fire?

Boggins: In Railway Street.

Fire Chief: In Rail — In Railway Street?

Boggins: Yes.

Fire Chief: What number?

Boggins: Number 44.

Fire Chief: Number 44? (***Panicking***) Quick! Hurry up! Get out of here
and do something!

Foggins: All right, all right! You said: 'Don't panic.'

Fire Chief: Never mind 'Don't panic!' Panic!

Coggins: But what's the matter, Chief? It's just a house on fire.

Fire Chief: Yes - but it's my house!

ALL: Panic!!

They all exit, hup-hup-hupping



