

The Ticket Inspector



In the stage version, the ticket inspector, steward and waiter are played by the same actor, but if you want to give two more students a line to

Scene A compartment on a train

Characters: Passenger: Judy
Ticket inspector
Steward
Waiter

Enter steward

Steward: Coffee?

Passenger: No thanks.

Exit steward. Enter waiter

Waiter: Seats for dinner?

Passenger: No, thanks.

Exit waiter. Enter Inspector

Doug Case and Ken Wilson

Inspector: Tickets?

Passenger: No, thanks.

Inspector: Pardon?

Passenger: I don't want a ticket, thank you.

Inspector: I'm not *selling* tickets, madam.

Passenger: That's marvellous. Because I don't want to buy one.

Inspector: No. I want to see your ticket.

Passenger: Oh, I see.

She goes back to reading her magazine

Inspector: Well ... can I see your ticket?

Passenger: I haven't got a ticket.

Inspector: You haven't got a ticket?!?

Passenger: No. I never buy a ticket.

Inspector: Why not?

Passenger: Well, they *are* very expensive, you know.

Inspector: Madam! You are travelling on a train. When people travel on a train, they always buy a ticket!

Passenger: Do they?

Inspector: Yes! And this is a *first-class* compartment!

Passenger: Yes, it's very nice, isn't it?

Inspector: No, I mean — you're travelling in a first-class compartment. When people travel in a first-class compartment, they always buy a first-class ticket.

Passenger: No, they don't.

Inspector: Pardon?

Passenger: A lot of people don't buy tickets.

Inspector: A lot of people don't buy tickets?!?

Passenger: Yes.

Inspector: Who, for example?

Passenger: The King.

Inspector: The King?!?

Passenger: Yes. The King doesn't buy a ticket, does he?

Inspector: No, madam. But the King is a very important person.

Passenger: I see. And what about you?

Inspector: Me?

Passenger: Yes, you. Where's yours?

Inspector: Mine?

Passenger: Yes, yours. Your ticket. Have *you* got a ticket?

Inspector: No.

Passenger: I see. Are you a very important person?

Inspector: Me? Important? Well. ... madam! I am a ticket inspector. I inspect tickets. Now ... are you going to show me your ticket, or aren't you?

Passenger: OK. Here you are.

She takes a ticket from her pocket and gives it to the inspector

Inspector: Thank you. (***Looks at ticket***) Madam, this is a cinema ticket.

Passenger: It's OK. You can have it.

Inspector: Right. That's it. Please leave the train.

Passenger: Pardon?

Inspector: Leave the train.

Passenger: Leave the train?

Inspector: Yes.

Passenger: I can't.

Inspector: You can't what?

Passenger: Leave the train.

Inspector: Why not?

Passenger: It's moving.

Inspector: Not now, madam. At the next station.

Passenger: Oh.

Inspector: It's in the book, madam. When you travel by train, you buy a ticket, and if you don't buy a ticket, you —

Passenger: — leave the train!

Inspector: Exactly. (*Opens window*) Well, madam, we're coming to a station now. Please leave the train.

Passenger: OK.

Inspector: I'm very sorry, but — what did you say?

Passenger: I said: OK.

Inspector: OK?

Passenger: Yes. I'm very happy to leave the train.

Inspector: Are you?

Passenger: Yes.

Inspector: Why?

Passenger: This is my station. Goodbye!

Exit passenger

Exit ticket inspector