

1.

X Do you find the place is warm enough?

Y Yes, oh yes. Very comfortable I think. It's all that you need really, you don't need any more.

X And you say that the warden is a nice person.

Y Oh yes, you will get other opinions, but that's my opinion.

X Well you can't please everybody can you?

Y She's been very good to me.

X What would the other people say?

Y Ah well I don't know. I wouldn't like to repeat it because I don't really believe half of what they are saying. They just get a fixed thing into their mind. But it's always been, I mean, we had another one – this is our second one. But if she's off ill and that it's, oh off ill again and I mean she's got certificates to prove it. But they just seem, what irks them really is we can't get a warden that will be overnight you see.

X Right, sort of 24 hrs, 7 days a week.

(Wilson and Murie 1995)

2.

A I'll ring you tomorrow afternoon then.

B Erm, I shall be there as far as I know, and in the meantime have a word with Mum and Dad if they're free. Right, bye-bye then sweetheart.

A Bye-bye, bye.

(BNC: kc8 Gillian, 1991)

3.

A There's somebody at the door.

B I'm in the bath.

4.

A I mean, **just going back to your point**, I mean to me an order form is a contract. If we are going to put something in then let's keep it as general as possible.

B Yes.

(BNC: j97 British Market Research Monthly Meeting, 1994)

5.

Thank you Chairman. Jus — **just to clarify one point**. There is a meeting of the Police Committee on Monday and there is an item on their budget for the provision of their camera.

(BNC, j44 West Sussex Council Highways Committee Meeting, 1994)

6.

When Sir Maurice Bowra was Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, he was interviewing a young man for a place at the college. He eventually came to the conclusion that the young

man would not do. Helpfully, however, he let him down gently by advising the young man, 'I think you would be happier in a larger — or a smaller — college'.

(Rees 1999: 5)

7.

A Well, how do I look?

B Your *shoes* are nice...

8.

Lynn Yes **I'm starving** too.

Martin Hurry up girl.

Lynn Oh dear, stop eating rubbish. You won't eat any dinner.

(BNC: kd6 Martin, 1992)

9.

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you.

(Leobowitz 1985: 368)

10.

AF I'm beginning to realise why em why jobs in language schools run out so sharply in the autumn and in the spring. It's all these damn MSc students and their wives, // (heh heh)

BM I/ (heh heh heh heh)

AF Now I know why I was never wanted after October.

BF Yeah that's right. (heh)

(Students on EFL schools 1996)

11.

A So what do you think of Mark?

B His flatmate's a wonderful cook.

12.

Heckler We expected a better play.

Coward I expected better manners.

(Sherrin 1995: 29)

13.

A Where are you off to?

B I was thinking of going out to get some of that funny white stuff for somebody.

A OK, but don't be long — dinner's nearly ready.

14.

I wouldn't say when you've seen one Western you've seen the lot; but when you've seen the lot you get the feeling you've seen one.

(Whitehorn 1976)

15.

A Does your dog bite?

B No.

A [*Bends down to stroke it and gets bitten*] Ow! You said your dog doesn't bite!

B That isn't my dog.

16.

Husband How much did that new dress cost, darling?

Wife Less than the last one.

17.

X What would the other people say?

Y Ah well I don't know. I wouldn't like to repeat it because I don't really believe half of what they are saying. They just get a fixed thing into their mind.

18.

Bush, himself a former director of the CIA, said Gates would not routinely attend Cabinet meetings but would take part in sessions where intelligence was necessary for making decisions.

(Lederer 1987: 77)

19.

A What did you have to eat?

B Oh, something masquerading as chicken chasseur.

20.

Pat How's it going with Phil?

Melanie One of us thinks it's OK.

21.

A Well there's a shuttle service sixty pounds one way. When do you want to go?

B At the weekend.

A What weekend?

B Next weekend. How does that work? You just turn up for the shuttle service? A
That might be cheaper. Then that's fifty.

(Grundy 2000)