

The Road Less Travelled

Episode 7: The cop

The story so far:

Katie has been excited all week about going on a date with Michael and the big day has finally arrived.



Listening

1. Listen to the episode and then complete the sentence.

Katie and Michael were having a fantastic date until ...

2. Listen again and put the orders the police officer gives Michael into the gaps.

- _____ of the car please.
- _____ your hands where I can see them.
- _____ your hands on the front of the car.
- _____ in the car ma'am.
- _____ quiet.
- Katie, just _____ it.
- _____ carefully.

Language: Imperatives

The sentences in activity 2 are all imperative forms. Now, imagine the police officer wanted to be more polite! Rewrite the sentences to make them more polite and less direct. Use the language in the box below if you like.

Would you mind ...?

Please could you ...?

Do you think you could ...?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

In pairs do a role play of the situation with the police officer, but this time the police officer is much more polite!

Discussion

- How do you think Michael and Katie feel after the incident with the police?
- Do you think Katie overreacted to the situation?
- Do you think the police officer behaved appropriately?
- When was the last time you spoke to a police officer?

The Road Less Travelled

Episode 7: The cop

Transcript

(POLICE OFFICER, hereafter PO)

KATIE: Thanks again for dinner.

MM: It was my pleasure. Don't keep saying thank you.

KATIE: And that gallery! It was great. Really great.

MM: I'm glad you liked it.

KATIE: What's that?

MM: Hmm. It's the police. Right behind us.

KATIE: Do they want us to pull over?

MM: I think so. Strange. I wasn't driving very fast. Hold on.

MM: Yes, hello? Is everything all right?

PO: Licence and registration please.

MM: Of course. Here you are. Is everything all right?

PO: Get out of the car please.

KATIE: What's the matter?

PO: Get out of the car. Now.

MM: Fine, but I'd like to know...

PO: Don't you understand English? Out of the car! RIGHT NOW!

KATIE: This is ridiculous!

MM: Don't worry. I'm getting out of the car.

PO: Keep your hands where I can see them.

MM: Fine, fine.

KATIE: What has he done?

PO: Now PUT YOUR HANDS ON THE FRONT OF THE CAR. Nice and slow.

KATIE: What are you doing? What has he done?

PO: Stay in the car ma'am. Just stay in the car.

MM: Listen, I'm ...

PO: Be quiet. I'm just checking if you have a weapon.

MM: I don't have a weapon.

PO: I said be quiet! Or do you want us to go to the police station?

MM: No.

PO: What did you say?

MM: I said no. We don't want to go to the police station.

PO: Ok, we're done here. You can get back into the car.

KATIE: Excuse me, but what was all that about?



The Road Less Travelled

Episode 7: The cop

LISTENING SKILLS TRANSCRIPT

PO: Sorry ma'am, we're looking for a man ... we thought it was him.

KATIE: Why, just because he's black?

PO: Do you want to make a complaint ma'am?

MM: Katie, just leave it.

KATIE: But he ... this is ...

PO: Have a nice evening then. Drive carefully.

KATIE: Arghhh! I can't believe that! Are you okay?

MM: I'm fine. Just fine. Let me take you home.



Answer key

Listening

1. Student's own answer. For example:

Katie and Michael were having a fantastic date *until the police officer stopped their car.*

- 2.
- Get out of the car please.
 - Keep your hands where I can see them.
 - Put your hands on the front of the car.
 - Stay in the car ma'am.
 - Be quiet.
 - Katie, just leave it.
 - Drive carefully.



Language

Would you mind + -ing (Would you mind getting out of the car please?)

Please could you + infinitive (Please could you keep your hands where I can see them?)

Do you think you could + infinitive (Do you think you could put your hands on the front of the car?)