

## The train

### Teacher's notes and answer key

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Age:** Adults

**Time needed:** 45 minutes plus

**Procedure:** Activities 1 and 2 on the student worksheets should be completed before students listen to the play. The rest of the activities can be completed during and after listening. The 'Twelve top tips' will give you extra ideas for using the plays in the classroom.

**Note:** The conversation between the two people in this play touches on some adult themes, so please think carefully about whether it is appropriate to use with your students. We recommend that it is used with students who are mature enough to discuss the subject matter in a balanced way.



that they are drinking on the street, which is illegal in some towns and cities in the UK.

9. The word *alky* is an informal and derogatory term for an alcoholic. Its use indicates that the person using it doesn't approve of the other person's behaviour.

10. The verb *fancy* means *to feel sexually attracted to someone*.

### Notes on language and culture

1. London Bridge is an area in central London located just south of the River Thames. London Bridge train station offers direct services to many stations in the south-east of the UK. Dartford is a town situated 16 miles south-east of central London.

2. You will notice that both Colin and Angela don't pronounce the 'h' sound in words such as *have*, *he* and *headaches*. This is typical accent trait among people who live in south-east England.

3. *The Fox* and *The Red Lion* are well-known pub names in the UK

4. 'It's that ...' is an informal structure used when identifying a problem.

5. *Bloody* is a swear word commonly used in the UK and which is considered to be less offensive than most.

6. *A bit on the chubby side* is a euphemistic way of saying that someone is overweight.

7. The informal expression *more like* indicates that what you have just said is more likely to be true than what has previously been said.

8. When Colin says 'she always has a bottle of cider in a brown paper bag', this is a common activity for people such as alcoholics or underaged drinkers who cover the bottle with a brown paper bag to hide the fact

### Twelve top tips

1. Take away the title of the play. Students try to guess the context. Who? Where? Why? What?

2. Ask students to describe the appearance, personality and social status of the characters in the play.

3. Cut the play up into four sections. Students then put it back in the correct sequence.

4. Supply several statements of fact or opinion about the play. Ask students to assess whether each one follows from the play, supports it, contradicts it or is assumed.

5. Use the play alongside a onestopenglish news lesson or news article on the same subject and hold a debate and discussion on the topic to link the content with students' experience or knowledge.

6. Students add their own stage directions, e.g. ... *he said angrily – rising from his chair*.

7. Students can finish the play off in their own words or change its ending.

8. Students interpret the play, perform it and then record and listen to themselves for correct use of stress and intonation.

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9. Students perform the play using the same words but in different styles, e.g. a romance, a ghost story, a thriller, etc.

10. Students identify vocabulary that has a negative connotation.

11. Students identify the word/phrase/phrasal verb that means ...

12. Take an adjective or adverb out of a sentence and put it in brackets at the end of the line. Students put it back in the correct place or wherever it will logically fit, for example:

*I know. I dunno why they don't give you the prescription and have done with it. [JUST]*

*I know. I dunno why they don't just give you the prescription and have done with it.*

### Answer key

#### 1. Complete the extract

1. cough; 2. admit; 3. given up; 4. because; 5. limit

#### 2. Vocabulary

1. c; 2. e; 3. d; 4. a; 5. f; 6. b

#### 3. Find the colloquial expression

1. have done with it
2. give up, pack in
3. (it) stands to reason
4. you can't have it both ways
5. drive someone mad
6. alky

#### 4. Colloquial language: Ellipsis

1. It depends how quick it is at the doctor's.
2. Do you remember last time?
3. It used to drive me mad.
4. It's supposed to be better for your blood pressure than the others.
5. She's never out of the Red Lion.
6. She doesn't get the bad headaches you get with the ones I'm on now.

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### Transcript

**Scenario:** A middle-aged couple on the train from London Bridge to Dartford

**Characters:** Colin, Angela

- Colin** Do you reckon we'll have time?
- Angela** For what?
- Colin** For a quick one in the Fox before we get the train back.
- Angela** Dunno. Depends how quick it is at the doctor's. Remember last time? We had to wait for more than an hour.
- Colin** You know what the trouble is? It's that doctor. He talks too much. Started talking to me about golf last time. I mean, golf. What do I know about bloody golf?
- Angela** I know. I dunno why they don't just give you the prescription and have done with it. A waste of time examining you every time.
- Colin** He'll probably tell me I've gotta stop.
- Angela** Stop what?
- Colin** Drinkin'. Says I'm overweight. I told him that's because he made me give up smoking. You're bound to put on a bit of weight if you pack in the fags. Stands to reason. You can't have it both ways.
- Angela** I know. At least you got rid of that cough, though. I'd rather have you fat than having that cough. Used to drive me mad.
- Colin** Who are you calling fat?
- Angela** Well, you've got to admit you're a bit on the chubby side these days.
- Colin** It's because I've given up smoking. I told you!
- Angela** It's because you drink eight pints of lager a day more like.
- Colin** I never have more than six. Six is my limit. Anyway, he says he's gonna put me on some new pills.
- Angela** What for?
- Colin** For my angina, of course.
- Angela** I know that! What I mean is why's he gonna put you on *new* pills.
- Colin** Supposed to be better for your blood pressure than the others. That Kate's on the new ones.
- Angela** Who?
- Colin** Kate. You know the one. Always has a bottle of cider in a brown paper bag with her. You know her. Never out of the Red Lion.
- Angela** Oh. That Kate. The alky.
- Colin** I wouldn't call her an alky. She just likes a few drinks, that's all.
- Angela** She's an alky. You said yourself she's never out of the Red Lion.
- Colin** Well, she's in there every time I go in.
- Angela** She probably says the same thing about you, then. Strange, isn't it? How you're both always in there at the same time. I reckon you fancy her. That's why you go in there.

**The train**

**Transcript**

**Colin** Anyway, she says she feels better on them new pills. Doesn't get the bad headaches you get with the ones I'm on now.

**Angela** You get headaches because you drink too much.

**Colin** Don't start that again. I know my limits.

**Angela** Well, you obviously don't. Otherwise we wouldn't be on our way to the bloody doctor's again.

**Colin** I never have more than eight pints.

**Angela** I thought you said six was your limit.

**Colin** Yeah. Six. I meant six.

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### Worksheet

#### 1 Complete the extract

Use these words to fill the gaps in this short extract from the play.

limit

because

admit

cough

given up

**Angela** At least you got rid of that (1) \_\_\_\_\_, though. I'd rather have you fat than having that cough. Used to drive me mad.

**Colin** Who are you calling fat?

**Angela** Well, you've got to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ you're a bit on the chubby side these days.

**Colin** It's because I've (3) \_\_\_\_\_ smoking. I told you!

**Angela** It's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ you drink eight pints of lager a day more like.

**Colin** I never have more than six. Six is my (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2 Vocabulary

Match these words from the play with their meanings.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. reckon      | a. overweight   |
| 2. a quick one | b. a unit for measuring liquid, equal to 0.57 litres                      |
| 3. fags        | c. think  |
| 4. chubby      | d. cigarettes   |
| 5. angina      | e. an alcoholic drink consumed in a short space of time                   |
| 6. a pint      | f. a medical condition in which the blood flow to the heart is restricted |

#### 3 Find the colloquial expression

Listen to the play and find the following words and phrases. They are in the order in which they appear in the play.

1. a four-word expression meaning *finish it*
2. two two-word phrasal verbs meaning *stop doing something that you are addicted to*
3. a three-word expression meaning *makes sense*
4. a six-word expression meaning *it is not possible to have everything you want at the same time*
5. a three-word expression meaning *to make a person feel angry*
6. a noun meaning *alcoholic*

**Worksheet**

**4 Colloquial language: Ellipsis**

**Which words are missing from these examples from the play?**

1. Depends how quick it is at the doctor's.
2. Remember last time?
3. Used to drive me mad.
4. Supposed to be better for your blood pressure than the others.
5. Never out of the Red Lion.
6. Doesn't get the bad headaches you get with the ones I'm on now.

**5 Listen and read**

**Listen to the recording and read the play aloud in time with the recording.**

**6 Discussion**

**In the UK and many other countries, it is illegal to smoke in public places and workplaces. Should similar measures be taken against drinking alcohol?**