
[BACK OF WHIT'S END, LATER. CONNIE AND EUGENE ARE WALKING TOWARDS WHIT'S CAR.]

CONNIE:

I have to admit, Eugene, when it comes to books, you're a fast study. You aced that last practice test.

EUGENE:

I haven't spent the last seven years in college without learning a few memory retention tricks.

CONNIE:

Yeah, well, now comes the real test -- getting behind the wheel. Hop in. (THEY GET IN THE CAR AND CLOSE THE DOORS.) Seatbelts. (THEY DO)

EUGENE:

Awfully nice of Mr. Whittaker to let us use his delivery car.

CONNIE:

He probably figures we can't hurt anything in the back parking lot . . . All right, I guess it's best to start at the beginning.

EUGENE:

A very good place to start.

CONNIE:

Okay . . . This is a key. Say it.

EUGENE:

(A BEAT) "Say it?"

CONNIE:

That's right -- say it.

EUGENE:

Ms. Kendall, perhaps we shouldn't start at the very beginning.

CONNIE:

Eugene, I'm the instructor. You're the student. I make the rules here. Now, say it! What is this?

EUGENE:

(ROLLS HIS EYES) Um . . . a key?

CONNIE:

Right. And it goes in this slot here, which is called "the ignition." Say it.

EUGENE:

(SIGHS) Ms. Kendall--

CONNIE:

Say it!

EUGENE:

"Ignition."

CONNIE:

Good. Now, when we put the key in the ignition to start the car, we always turn it away from us. What direction do we turn the key?

EUGENE:

Away from us.

CONNIE:

Excellent! All right, now, let's review for just a moment.

EUGENE:

Ms. Kendall, I hardly think--

CONNIE:

(PLOWING AHEAD) This is the -- ?

EUGENE:

Key.

CONNIE:

And we put it in the -- ?

EUGENE:

Ignition.

CONNIE:

And to start the car, we always turn it -- ?

EUGENE:

Away from us.

CONNIE:

Very good, Eugene! Okay, now, it's time we moved on to something more difficult.

EUGENE:

(SARCASTIC) Oh, can we?! I'm just dying to learn about windshield wipers!

CONNIE:

There's no reason to be sarcastic,
Eugene.

EUGENE:

I'm sorry, Ms. Kendall, but I
believe we can move at a slightly
accelerated pace.

CONNIE:

Okay, okay . . . This thing
sticking up out of the floor?

EUGENE:

The gear shift of a manual
transmission automobile.

CONNIE:

Right. Well, all these markings
on the knob are the positions of
the gears. Now before you start
the car, you wanna make sure the
gear shift is in between the
gears.

EUGENE:

In between.

CONNIE:

Yeah, right where it is. That's
called "neutral." When the gear
shift is in neutral, you can start
the car. Go ahead.

EUGENE:

Now? Ah . . . of course now . . .
(HE TURNS THE KEY, AND THE CAR
STARTS.) It works.

CONNIE:

Very good -- first time, too. Okay, now, you see those pedals on the floor? Well, the one on the right is the gas. You step on it to make the car go. And the one in the middle is the brake. What do you think that one does?

EUGENE:

Duh . . . make the car stop?

CONNIE:

Right! But the one on the left is the one we're worried about right now. It's called "the clutch."

EUGENE:

Clutch.

CONNIE:

Yes. Now, what you do is step on it and put the gear shift in the number one position.

EUGENE:

Step on it (HE DOES) . . . and put the gear shift in the number one position . . . (HE DOES) I did it! Well, that was easy---aaackk!

CONNIE:

Waaa!!

[THE CAR LURCHES BACK AND DIES.]

EUGENE:

(SCARED) What happened?!

CONNIE:

You let the pedal up!

EUGENE:

Wasn't I supposed to?

CONNIE:

No! You're supposed to hold it down!

EUGENE:

Well, you didn't tell me that! All you said was step on it and put the gear shift in number one!

CONNIE:

Well, now you know!! Try it again.

EUGENE:

Very well . . . neutral . . . start the car . . . (DOES) . . . step on the clutch (DOES) . . . and put the gear shift in number one (DOES) . . . there.

CONNIE:

Okay . . . now step down on the gas pedal and, at the same time, ease up on the clutch. Got it?

EUGENE:

(CONCENTRATING) Uh, I believe so -- step down on the gas, and ease up on the clutch . . .

CONNIE:

Right, but slowly, otherwise the car will -- aaaack!!

EUGENE:

Waaa--!!

[THE CAR LURCHES AND DIES AGAIN.]

CONNIE:

(IN PAIN) -- lurch forward and
die again . . .

EUGENE:

Uh, sorry, Ms. Kendall. I think I
have it, now, though!

CONNIE:

Good . . . uh, why don't you
practice that for a while . . .
(SHE OPENS THE DOOR AND GETS OUT.)

EUGENE:

Where are you going?

CONNIE:

(OFF) To get a neck brace . . .
this is gonna be a long afternoon
. . .

[MUSIC: BRIDGES COMICALLY TO THE NEXT SCENE.]