

TITLE
Purchasing a Sketch

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INT. STORE - DAY

SHOPKEEPER is standing behind a counter facing away. JEREMY walks up.

JEREMY
Hello, excuse me?

Shopkeeper turns around.

SHOPKEEPER
Yes?

JEREMY
I'd like to buy a sketch if you don't mind.

SHOPKEEPER
A what?

JEREMY
A sketch, if you don't mind.

SHOPKEEPER
I'm sorry, you said a what?

JEREMY
I said I'd like to buy a sketch, if you don't mind.

SHOPKEEPER
Oh, right, you should have said so.

JEREMY
I did say so. And I wonder, is this a real counter?

Jeremy indicates the counter.

SHOPKEEPER
Oh, no, it's a table. We're on a budget you see, sorry.

JEREMY
Oh, that's quite all right. Anyway, as I was saying, I did say so.

SHOPKEEPER
So you did. Now, what kind of sketch do you want?

JEREMY
What kind?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, what kind?

JEREMY

I didn't know they came in different kinds.

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, it's something of a new development, have to remain competitive.

JEREMY

Well, I suppose I'd like my sketch to have comedy in it.

SHOPKEEPER

All right.

JEREMY

And some jokes, I'd like some jokes.

SHOPKEEPER

That'd be part of the comedy, wouldn't it?

JEREMY

And I'd like it to be five minutes long.

SHOPKEEPER

Ah, a three minute? That'll cost you extra.

JEREMY

So how much will that be?

SHOPKEEPER

Well it depends on the rest of your choices.

JEREMY

The rest? There's more?

SHOPKEEPER

Certainly there is. You haven't yet picked out how many people you want in this sketch, or if there will be a punchline.

JEREMY

If there will be a punchline? I thought that was included in the base purchase.

SHOPKEEPER

Sorry, but with high demand we've had to make some cuts.

JEREMY

But you said you were trying to remain competitive.

SHOPKEEPER

Yes; a lot of other places don't offer punchlines at all.

JEREMY

Sounds dreadful.

SHOPKEEPER

So you will be wanting a punchline, then.

JEREMY

I'm sorry, should you be writing this down?

SHOPKEEPER

Don't worry, I can remember.

JEREMY

Well, all right then. I think I also want four people in this sketch.

SHOPKEEPER

Very good. Ah, there's one more item to deal with.

JEREMY

Is there?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, there is.

JEREMY

Are you quite certain about that?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, of course I am.

JEREMY

No, I don't think there is. What else could there be?

SHOPKEEPER

Sir, I assure you that there is another thing to determine before our business is concluded.

JEREMY

Fine then, what is it?

SHOPKEEPER

You need to tell me whether or not you will be wanting a punchline with this sketch, it's very important to know.

JEREMY

But I already told you I did!

SHOPKEEPER

No you didn't.

JEREMY

Yes I did, not even a minute [two minutes] ago!

SHOPKEEPER

No, I don't think so.

JEREMY

I said you should be writing this down.

SHOPKEEPER

Nonsense, I haven't forgotten a thing.

JEREMY

You certainly have.

SHOPKEEPER

No, I think I'd remember if I did.

JEREMY

Then say it back to me.

SHOPKEEPER

Say what back to you?

JEREMY

My order!

SHOPKEEPER

But sir, you haven't ordered yet.
I've been standing here for two
[three] minutes waiting for you to
stop chattering and tell me what it
is you want.

JEREMY

What I want. Is a sketch with
comedy, jokes, five minutes, four
actors, and a punchline.

SHOPKEEPER

That's one one sketch with comedy,
jokes, five minutes, four actors,
and no punchline.

JEREMY

No, that's not right.

SHOPKEEPER

What isn't?

JEREMY

I want a punchline.

SHOPKEEPER

Well why didn't you say so? Let's
see,
(Shopkeeper writes on a
paper)
Your total comes to this.

Shopkeeper shows the paper to Jeremy.

JEREMY

What? This amount?

SHOPKEEPER

Yes, that's correct.

JEREMY

Is there any way we could cut it
down?

SHOPKEEPER

I suppose so. We could cut off a
minute or two, and perhaps cut the
cast down to one person.

JEREMY

One person? Wait a minute, was the purpose of this entire sketch to explain why there's only one person in this sketch?

SHOPKEEPER

Now that would be absolutely ridiculous.

THE END