



Questionnaires

Characters: Lady, Man, Ricky, Bobo, Tooth, Leo, Winnie, Yoko, Dennis, Ted Miss Yu, Miss Perkins

Scene 1

Miss P: Good morning everybody.

All: Good morning Miss Perkins.

Miss P: Now last lesson I asked how many of you had spoken to a native speaker recently and I was shocked to discover that only one, Winnie, had spoken to a native speaker... Hong Kong is full of tourists, a marvelous opportunity for you to go out and practice your English. Er... Dennis.... what are you eating?

Dennis: (Mouth full) A hamburger Miss.

Miss P: A hamburger?!... at eight thirty in the morning?

Ted: It's his breakfast Miss.

Miss P: You should eat eggs for breakfast Dennis, not hamburgers.

Dennis: I did eat eggs... I had an egg sandwich.

Miss P: So you had an egg sandwich and a hamburger?

Dennis: And some chicken nuggets Miss.

Miss P: Good gracious.

Dennis: I was hungry Miss.

Miss P: Well please make sure, in future, to finish eating before you come in to my class.... It is rude to eat in class.

Winnie: And it's against the rules Miss.

Miss P: Quite right Winnie. Now to-day I want you to all go out and meet the tourists.... I've got some questionnaires here and I want you to go and interview anyone who looks like they are visiting Hong Kong. Yes Daisy.

Daisy: How do we know if they're tourists... I don't know... they could be tourists or maybe not tourists.

Miss P: Oh come on Daisy.... It's obvious isn't it.

Daisy: (Indignant) No!

Miss P: Come on class... how can you tell a tourists.... come on.... let's poor old Daisy spot a tourist.

Yoko: (To Winnie, giggling) Did you hear that?... she said 'poor old Daisy.'

Winnie: (Giggling) I know... look... Daisy looks furious!

Ted: I know Miss... tourists are fat people who were shorts and who look all hot and sweaty.

Miss P: Well that's not a very flattering picture of a tourist Ted, but, yes, some of them may look like that. Yes Winnie.

Winnie: They've probably got a camera around their neck.

Miss P: Yes, good.

Yoko: Or they're peering at a map.

Miss P: Yes Michiko.

Yoko: Yoko Miss.

Miss P: Yoko, yes. Alright Daisy... think you can spot a tourist now?

Daisy: (Some rough words in Cantonese under her breath)

Miss P: I beg your pardon Daisy... did you say something.

Daisy: (Rough words in Cantonese.)

Miss P: It's very rude to speak to someone in a language that they do not understand Daisy.

Daisy: Then don't speak to me.

Miss P: I beg your pardon?!

Daisy: I no speak English, you speak me Cantonese!!

Winnie: (Under her breath to Yoko) Daisy's really mad at Miss Perkins... she's pretending she can't speak English.

Yoko: (To Winnie) I know... Miss upset her by calling her 'poor old Daisy,' now Daisy's getting her revenge.

Miss P: But Daisy Chiu... this is an English class, you are here to speak English not Chinese.

Daisy: Cantonese, Cantonese.... not Chinese!

Miss P: Cantonese IS Chinese.

Winnie: (To Yoko) She's wrong there.

Yoko: (To Winnie) I wonder what Daisy's going to say.

Daisy: No... you're wrong.... Putongha is Chinese language... Cantonese is Hong Kong language.

Miss P: And Hong Kong is part of China so Cantonese is Chinese.

Yoko: (To Winnie) I don't think Miss Perkins understands.

Winnie: (To Yoko) She's only been here a few weeks.

Yoko: (To Winnie) But she's a teacher... she should know.
Miss P: Yoko, if you've got anything to say please share it with the class... you may think I can't see you talking to Winnie but I can, I can see everything out here so please.... do try and pay some attention.
Yoko: Sorry Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Very well.... now look at the questionnaires.... I hope they are clear. Now off you go and meet the tourists.

Scene 2 In the street

Dennis: Excuse me.
Lady I: Si?
Dennis: Do you like Chinese food?
Lady I: Uh?
Dennis: Do you like the Chinese food?
Lady I: Non capito.... Non capito.
Dennis: Food.... Chinese Food.... You like?
Lady 1: (strong accent) Buy Buy.
Winnie: Excuse me Sir but could I....
Man I: No I don't want to buy a copy watch and I don't want to have my fortune told and I don't want to buy anything, do you understand.... I just want to stroll along and enjoy the view now please, leave me alone.
Yoko: Excuse me Miss
Lady 2: Why, what have you done? (she bursts into manic laughter)
Yoko: (Polite laugh) Ah yes, very funny. Um, we're doing a school project and....
Lady 2: Didn't your mother ever tell you about talking to strangers dear... never ever talk to a stranger... you never know who they may be... they might even be mad (she bursts into hysterical, manic laughter)
Ted: Hi there.
Man I: Shouldn't you be at school?
Ted: We're doing a school project.
Man I: It's very bad to play truant you know... now run along and go back to school.... If you don't so your lessons now you'll never learn anything.... now off you go.

Ted: But...

Man 1: No but my young man... just get back to school before I report you to the police.

Daisy: Excuse me Sir.

Man 2: (Irritated) What is it? I'm in a hurry.

Daisy: Can you talk to me in English?

Man 2: Of course I can, but I can't now... I'm in a hurry... why don't you talk to someone else.

Daisy: You are very rude.

Man 2: I beg your pardon.

Daisy: I want to talk to you but you just run away.

Man 2: Run away?... I'm going to catch a coach and I'm late as it is.

Daisy: Hmmm.... Rude.

Man 2: Listen here young lady... I am not being rude, YOU are.

Daisy: Go away.

Man 2: How dare you tell me to go away.

Daisy: First you want to run away... now you want to stay.

Man 2: Young lady someone should teach you some manners.

Daisy: You wanna buy some cigarettes?

Man 2: Cigarettes?

Daisy: I give you good price.

Man 2: (Hurrying off. Move away from microphone) She's crazy... crazy.

Scene 3 In the staffroom

Miss P: I wonder how they're getting on?

Miss Yu: Who?

Miss P: I sent my class off to interview some tourists.

Miss Yu: That's an easy lesson.

Miss P: I didn't do it to make an easy lesson for myself... They need to talk to foreigners, how else are they going to improve their English.

Miss Yu: But Miss Perkins you ARE a foreigner... that's why the government is paying to bring you in so YOU can talk to the students.

Miss P: (Flustered) I know, I know... but... they need to get used to a RANGE of voices. what I do with my I was half up the night

Miss Yu: Why not let them get used to your voice first.

Miss P: They already HAVE.

Miss Yu: What?... after only one lesson?

Miss P: Miss Yu YOU teach history and I teach English.... class has been carefully thought out and planned..... writing those questionnaires.

Miss Yu: Half the night up and half the morning sitting down in the classroom.

Miss P: I'm not doing nothing, I'm preparing my next lesson.

Miss Yu: Really? With no pen and paper?

Miss P: I'm preparing my lesson in my head.

Miss Yu: Who have you got?

Miss P: 4C.

Miss Yu: 4C?.... then you'd better prepare something to keep you alive.

Miss P: What do you mean?

Miss Yu: That's Ricky Chiu's class.

Miss P: Who is Ricky Chiu?

Miss Yu: He's Daisy Chiu's sister.

Miss P: Daisy Chiu! That girl?! She's so rude. She walked out of my first class and never came back... and to-day she was muttering under her breath in Chinese at me.

Miss Yu: Chinese? You mean Cantonese?

Miss P: Why does everybody keep saying that.

Miss Yu: Miss Perkins... we are Hong Kong people... we speak Cantonese, not Chinese.

Miss P: But Hong Kong IS part of China.

Miss Yu: Okay Miss Perkins... answer me this... do Canadians speak Canadian?

Miss P: No of course not.

Miss Yu: Right, they speak English or French or Cantonese.

Miss P: Cantonese?

Miss Yu: Yes... and many other languages.

Miss P: What's that got to do with Chinese?

Miss Yu: Miss Perkins... China is a huge country. Many different languages are spoken in it.... Putongha, Hokkien, Chiu Chau, Fuji an, Shanghninese, Cantonese... so you see... to say she was speaking in Chinese doesn't make sense.

Miss P: Well it does to me.

Miss Yu: You've been here a short time Miss Perkins, but I hope you will

learn about our culture and understand it.

Miss P: I DO understand... I've read books about China and Hong Kong.

Miss Yu: What are you doing with 4C?

Miss P: The past tense.

Miss Yu: Well be careful... a lot of teachers end up in the past tense after teaching Ricky Chiu's class.

Scene 4 In the classroom. It is noisy and very unruly.

(SFX: Students calling out to each other in Cantonese, laughing, fighting etc)

Miss P: (Loud voice) Settle down everyone... settle down.

(SFX: The noise continues)

Miss P: (Very loud voice) I SAID SETTLE DOWN

(SFX: There is a momentary pause and then the noise goes back to what it was before.)

Miss P: (Screaming) BE QUIET, (there is a stunned silence) At last. Now sit down and get your books out. You boy, where's your book?

Ricky: Book? Book? I got no book!

(SFX: All laugh)

Miss P: If you have no book, how can you do your lesson?

Ricky: (Scornful) Lesson?! What lesson?!

Miss P: Your English lesson.

Ricky: Me no like Englishi.

Miss P: (Slow and deliberate) I AM HERE TO TEACH YOU ENGLISHI, I mean, English.

Ricky: (Slow and deliberate) ME NO WANT ENGLISHI

Miss P: (Slow and deliberate) YOU MUST LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISHI, IT IS VERY GOOD FOR YOU.

Ricky: English! NO GOOD... Cantonese good.

Miss P: (Slow and deliberate) ENGLISHI GOOD, CANTONESE GOOD... BOTH GOOD.... BUT NOW.... ENGLISHI, OKAY?

Ricky: Hey Tooth... what's she talking about?
Tooth: I dunno... she sounds a bit crazy to me. What you think Bobo?
Bobo: Why does she say... English!.... sounds funny.
Leo: Maybe she thinks we're funny... thinks we're so pooooor at English.
Ricky: We can report her... tell them that the new English teacher says, English!... very bad... very bad.
Bobo: here did she learn her English Tooth?
Tooth: I dunno Bobo.... But she likes to say, English!... I don't think she's a good teacher.
Leo: No good, no good.
Ricky: Maybe I be the English! teacher.
All: Yeah!!!
Miss P: Sit down! Sit down at once!!
Ricky: I don't wanna sit down.
Bobo: Do you wanna sit down Tooth.
Tooth: No Bobo... how about you Leo?
Leo: No way.
Miss P: Please... please sit down.
All: We don't wanna sit down.
Miss P: Look... look... in my bag... I've got some questionnaires.
Bobo: Why she looking in her bag Tooth?
Tooth: I dunno Bobo... maybe she wants to give us some sweets.
Ricky: You got sweets for us Missy?
Bobo: Missy, give us sweets.
Tooth: Yeah, sweets... we're good boys we need sweets.
Ricky: Candies for the good boys.
Leo: Lots of candies.
Miss P: No candies.... but.... da dahhh!... questionnaires.
Tooth: Bobo... she said she'd give us sweets.
Bobo: She lied Tooth.
Tooth: No sweets for BoboA
Bobo: No sweets for Tooth.
Leo: No sweets for Leo.
Ricky: And none for Ricky Chiu.
Miss P: Don't worry boys, these are better than sweets.
Ricky: I don't think so?
Miss P: I didn't intend to give these to you... but as you are such a good

class...

Bobo: Hear that Tooth... a good class.

Tooth: A good class Bobo.

Leo: Very good class, ay Ricky?

Ricky: Yes, yes, very good rubbish class.

Miss P: Ricky Chiu... you must never say that again... you are NOT a rubbish class... this is a very good class.

Bobo: Hey Tooth... a rubbish class with rubbish teacher.

Tooth: Yes Bobo... that's what they always give us.

Miss P: Now class... listen... I want you to all go out a talk to a tourist.

(SFX: Uproar, cheering and hollering)

Miss P: Good, I'm glad you appreciate that. Now find a tourists and ask them....

(SFX: Class hurrying out of the classroom, laughing and chatting in Cantonese.)

Miss P: Wait a minute... (calling) I haven't finished..... OH.... oh dear... I thought Chinese students were supposed to be well behaved... that's what they told us back in Australia.

Scene 5 Staffroom

Miss Yu: Back already Miss Perkins... I thought you were teaching 4C.

Miss P: Yes, yes I am..

Miss Yu: Are you? How can you teach a class when you're sitting in the staffroom drinking tea?

Miss P: Um... (mumbling so Miss Yu won't understand) I sent them out with questionnaires.

Miss Yu: Sorry? I couldn't quite catch that?

Miss P: Never mind.

Miss Yu: Miss Perkins... you ARE supposed to be teaching 4c?

Miss P: Yes.

Miss Yu: Miss Perkins.

Miss P: Bunty.. please call me Bunty.

Miss Yu: 4C are a very unruly class... they should never be left

unattended... the last time they were left unattended they ripped the blackboard off the wall and threw it out the window.

Miss P: No, no, no, it's alright... they're not in class.

Miss Yu: Not in class.... then where are they?

Miss P: (Airily) I sent them out with questionnaires.

Miss Yu: (Appalled) You did what?

Miss P: Questionnaires... I sent them out... to... to talk to some native speakers of English.

Miss Yu: (Appalled) You let 4C out on their own?! And asked them to talk to tourists?!

Miss P: Yes... yes I did... and Miss Yu... I'd like you to know that questionnaires are a very advanced way of teaching English.

Miss Yu: (In a panic)We'd better call the police..

Miss P: Call then police?!

Miss Yu: Miss Perkins, in one single stroke you have probably succeeded where all else has failed.... You have managed to totally SHATTER the Hong Kong tourist industry.

Miss P: They're not THAT bad..... (timid voice) are they?

Miss Yu: Worse Miss Perkins..... much much worse than you can ever have imagined.

Scene 6 In the street

Ricky: Hey you.... pretty lady.

Lady 1: Are you talking to me?!

Ricky: Come here.

Lady 1: Who are you?

Ricky: What you think of Chinese food?

Lady 1: What?

Ricky: Answer!

Lady 1: I'm sorry... I've got to go.

Ricky: Tooth... Bobo... Leo.... Hold her down.

Lady 1: (A little scream)

Ricky: No screaming, okay?

Lady 1: (Struggling) Let me go.

Ricky: What you think of Chinese food?

Lady 1: (Struggling, more insistent) LET ME GO I say.

Ricky: Answer me.... now... what you think of Chinese food? (Sounds of

struggling as they speak)
Bobo: You better answer Miss.
Tooth: Better to tell him.
Leo: If you don't tell him.... very bad for you.
Lady 1: (struggling with them as she speaks) Why do you want to know what I think of Chinese food?!!!
Ricky: Hold her arms back.
Lady 1: (Screams) That hurts!
Ricky: Okay.... now one last chance.... What you think of Chinese food?!!
Lady 1: (Hysterical) I like it, I like it.... now please... please.... let me go.
Ricky: Okay Bobo... write that down... she likes it.
Bobo: Um... Ricky.... How do you spell...Mike?'

(Fade down) (Fade up)

Ricky: Hey you.
Man 1: Are you talking to me?
Ricky: Yeah big nose... you... come here.
Man 1: How dare you talk to me like that... I'm going to report this to the police.
Ricky: Bobo, Tooth, Leo.... bring him here.

(SFX: Scuffling and grunts of rage as the boys drag the man to Ricky)

Man 1: Take your hands OFF me... take them OFF I say.
Ricky: Hold him tight.... Bobo... push his arm up his back.
Man 1: (In agony) Ohhhh.
Ricky: Hey! Don't try to kick me man.... Tooth... untie his shoe laces and tie his ankles together.
Man 1: This is outrageous! Outrageous!
Ricky: Let him do it or we give you dead knee.
Man 1: What do you want? I haven't got much money on me.
Ricky: We don't want your stupid money.
Bobo: Don't we Tooth?
Tooth: Don't we Bobo.
Leo: Hey Ricky... how come we don't want his money... we might as well take it now we've got his feet tied together.

Ricky: No! No money.... What we want is....
Man 1: Yes... yes....
Ricky: DO YOU LIKE CHINESEY FOOD?
Man 1: What?!!
Ricky: You don't speak English?!
Man 1: Yes, yes, of course I do.... But you don't mean to tell me you've pushed my arm up behind my back and tied my ankles together just to ask me if I like Chinese food?
Ricky: Yes.... Yes....of course!
Man 1: Why?... I mean. In heaven's name, what's so important in that?
Ricky: You're very stupid... LOOK, it's for Miss Perkins' questionnaire!!
Man 1: Whose Miss Perkins!!
Ricky: So stupid! Miss Perkins is our English teacher.
Bobo: Shall we take his money boss?
Ricky: NO!!! Now answer.... ANSWER.
Man 1: Very well.... YES... I DO like Chinese food.
Ricky: Let him go. Tooth, write it down.
Tooth: Write what Ricky?
Ricky: Write down he likes Chinese food you brick head!!
Tooth: Okay... how do you spell.... 'like?'

Music

The End