



IAVANTE English Training Programme

Manolo's Business Trip

Level – Intermediate

Episode 6: Manolo Sets Off

Lucky

That was a close shave in more ways than one, I'm not naturally bald, you know. Not many people get struck on the head by lightning and live to tell the tale. I'm being discharged from hospital today after a month in intensive care and then another in the general ward. The nurses, doctors and surgeons have done a great job, I feel as fit as a fiddle.



Man's Best Friend

I was very lucky after the accident; a passer-by discovered Barbiturate trying to drag me into a big hole he had dug. If she hadn't come along Barbiturate would have buried me alive. He says he mistook me for a pile of bones left over from a barbeque.

Off Home

Well, I'm off now. I've said goodbye to everybody here so now I'm going home to my family. To be honest I've really enjoyed the last two months; no screaming kids, no noisy neighbours and none of Maria's awful cooking. Oh well, back to the real world.



Dialogue

Welcome Home Manolo?

What's all that noise? It sounds like a party and it's coming from my flat. How weird! I don't believe it, it must be a welcome home party for me. Well I never! Maybe coming home won't be so bad after all.

A Misunderstanding

Hello everybody, I'm home. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to see you all again. How kind of you to have a party for me. It's great to be back home to be with my lovely family and neighbours again.

Rokale

Don't be an idiot Manolo this party isn't for you. Maria has thrown the party for Bert to thank him for all the help he has given her while you were away.



Manolo

You're kidding! I knew it was too good to be true. And what exactly do you mean by 'help' anyway?

Rokale

He's spent more time in this flat in the last two months than you ever have, playing with the kids, taking Barbiturate for walks, keeping Maria company, etcetera, etcetera... You've got a lot to thank him for.

Manolo

Me thank him? You must be joking! I'll soon sort him out!

Manolo

Hey Bert, I've got a bone to pick with you.

Barbiturate

Did someone mention bones?



Dialogue

Bert

Hello Manolo. Maria and I weren't expecting you so soon. We were planning to finish the party before you got home. Why don't you go through to one of the spare bedrooms and lay down until it's all over. You must be very tired.

Manolo

What a nerve! You come into my house behind my back, look after my family and dog and then, by the looks of it, you repair the broken door handle, fix the wobbly table, mend the dodgy stereo... You, you... words fail me!

Maria

That's typical of you Manolo. You've only been home for five minutes and you've made a spectacle of yourself already. Now, take Barbiturate out for a walk and don't come back until you've calmed down.

Barbiturate

Hey, don't ask me if I want to go out, will you? I'm having a very nice time here, thank you very much. I'm getting on very well with the poodle from downstairs and this could be a turning point in our relationship.

Manolo

Well, I can see I'm not wanted here. I know what I'll do. I won't even bother to unpack. I'm going to go to the airport and take the first available flight to Scotland.

Everybody

Bye Manolo, have a nice trip.





Dialogue

Good Old Bert

Wow, that couldn't have gone better even if I'd planned it. I thought I was going to have to cancel that trip to Scotland because I'd been away from home for such a long time. Good old Bert!

Taxi to the airport

Taxi! While I'm on the way to the airport in the taxi I can check the times of the flights on my smart phone and buy a ticket too.

At the Airport

Here we are at the airport. ¿19.95 euros? Here's a 20 euro note, keep the change. Scotland here I come.



Exercise 1: Questions and Answers

1. What two events does Manolo refer to when he uses the expression 'that was a close shave'?
2. Who discovered Barbiturate trying to drag Manolo into a hole?
3. Who does Manolo mistakenly believe the party is for?
4. Who did Maria really throw the party for?
5. What things does Rokale say Bert did while Manolo was away?
6. What does Manolo threaten to do to Bert?
7. What expression does Manolo use to tell Bert that he has something to talk to him about that has annoyed him?
8. Where does Bert tell Manolo to go and lie down?
9. What jobs has Bert done around the flat?
10. What doesn't Manolo bother to do?



Exercise 2: Listening

Instructions

Listen to the recording and try to identify the words which are missing from the text.

Make a note of them. In this way you can check your spelling too.

A Close Shave

That was a close _____ in more ways than one, I'm not naturally _____, you know. Not many people get _____ on the head by _____ and live to tell the _____. I'm being _____ from hospital today after a month in intensive _____ and then another in the general _____. The nurses, doctors and _____ have done a great job, I feel as _____ as a _____.

Man's Best Friend

I was very _____ after the accident; a _____ discovered Barbiturate trying to _____ me into a big hole he had dug. If she hadn't come _____ Barbiturate would have _____ me alive. He says he _____ me for a pile of _____ left over from a _____.

Off Home

Well, I'm _____ now. I've said goodbye to everybody here so now I'm going home to my family. To be _____ I've really enjoyed the last two months; no _____ kids, no _____ neighbours and none of Maria's _____ cooking. Oh well, back to the _____ world.

Welcome Home Manolo?

What's all that _____? It _____ like a _____ and it's coming from my flat. How _____! I don't _____ it, it must be a _____ home party for me. Well I _____! Maybe coming home _____ be so bad after all.

A Misunderstanding

Hello everybody, I'm _____. I can't tell you how _____ it is to see you all again. How _____ of you to have a _____ for me. It's _____ to be _____ home to be with my _____ family and _____ again.

Rokale

Don't be an _____ Manolo this _____ isn't for you. Maria has _____ the party for Bert to _____ him for all the _____ he has given her _____ you were _____.



Manolo

You're _____! I knew it was _____ good to be _____. And what _____ do you _____ by 'help' _____?

Rokale

He's _____ more time in this flat in the _____ two months than you ever have, playing with the _____, taking Barbiturate for _____, _____ Maria company, etcetera, etcetera... You've _____ a lot to _____ him for.

Manolo

Me _____ him? You must be _____! I'll soon _____ him out!

Manolo

Hey Bert, I've got a _____ to _____ with you.

Barbiturate

Did someone _____ bones?

Bert

Hello Manolo. Maria and I weren't _____ you so _____. We were _____ to finish the party before you _____ home. Why don't you go _____ to one of the _____ bedrooms and _____ down until it's all over. You must be very _____.

Manolo

What a _____! You come into my house _____ my back, look _____ my family and dog and then, by the _____ of it, you repair the _____ door _____, _____ the _____ table, _____ the _____ stereo... You, you... words _____ me!

Maria

That's _____ of you Manolo. You've _____ been home for five _____ and you've made a _____ of _____ already. Now, take Barbiturate _____ for a walk and don't come _____ until you've _____ down.

Barbiturate

Hey, _____ ask me if I want to go out, will you? I'm having a very nice _____ here, thank you very much. I'm getting _____ very well with the _____ from _____ and this could be a turning _____ in our _____.

Manolo

Well, I can see I'm not _____ here. I know what I'll do. I _____ even bother to _____. I'm going to go to the _____ and take the first _____ flight to Scotland.

Everybody

Bye Manolo, have a nice _____.



Good Old Bert

Wow, that couldn't have gone better _____ if I'd _____ it. I thought I was going to have to _____ that _____ to Scotland because I'd been away from home for _____ a long time. Good old Bert!

Taxi to the airport

Taxi! _____ I'm on the _____ to the airport in the taxi I can _____ the times of the _____ on my smart phone and _____ a ticket too.

At the Airport

Here we are at the _____. ¿19.95 euros? Here's a 20 euro _____, keep the _____. Scotland _____ I come!



Exercise 3: Language and Grammar

A close shave

That was **a close shave** in more ways than one

This is an idiomatic expression meaning to avoid or survive an unpleasant or dangerous experience.

That was **a close shave**. The boss nearly caught me playing games on the Internet

As fit as a fiddle

I feel as **fit as a fiddle**

This is an idiomatic expression meaning to be healthy. The word 'fiddle' is another word for violin.

She's 80 years old but she is **as fit as a fiddle**

Throw a party

Maria has **thrown the party** for Bert

The verb 'throw' is used here instead of the verbs 'have' or 'hold', to give a feeling of spontaneity regarding the organisation of the party.

It's John's birthday today, let's **throw him a surprise party**

You're kidding

You're kidding! I knew it was too good to be true

This expression is a synonym of 'you're joking' used when you can't believe what somebody has told you. Other similar expressions are 'you're having me on' and 'you're pulling my leg'.

You've won the lottery? **You're pulling my leg**, you've never bought a lottery ticket in your life

Sort somebody out

I'll soon **sort him out**

This is a term meaning to resolve a dispute with somebody in an aggressive way.

That man was being very abusive but the security guard soon **sorted him out**



A bone to pick

Hey Bert, I've got a **bone to pick** with you

This expression is used when you are annoyed with somebody about something they have done and you plan to tell them about.

I've got a **bone to pick** with Mary. She is always parking her car in my space

Repair/fix/mend

You **repair** the broken door handle, **fix** the wobbly table, **mend** the dodgy stereo

These three verbs are almost identical in meaning. 'Fix' and 'mend' are informal versions of 'repair'.

You broke the computer so you have to **fix** it



Exercise 5: Quiz

1) The expression 'a close shave' has a literal meaning and an idiomatic one. What are they?

- a) A shave where the hairs are cut very close to the skin
- b) To try to shave with the protective cover still on the razor
- c) To just avoid an accident or unpleasant situation
- d) To forget to close the bathroom cabinet door

2) Manolo doesn't have any hair on his head, so what is he?

- a) Bold
- b) Bowled
- c) Bowed
- d) Bald

3) Manolo is now as fit as a fiddle. What musical instrument is a fiddle?

- a) Electric guitar
- b) Organ
- c) Violin
- d) Flute

4) Who found Manolo after his accident?

- a) A passed-by
- b) A passer-by
- c) A pass-by
- d) A passing-by

5) Manolo uses the phrasal verb 'to be off' with the meaning 'to leave'. In what other way can this verb be used?

- a) To say a person has done something wrong
- b) To say food has gone bad
- c) To say that the weather isn't very nice
- d) To say that you are unhappy



6) When you have a bone to pick with someone, what do you want to do?

- a) To have a barbeque with them
- b) To speak to them about something they have done that annoys you
- c) To go out with them
- d) To say something nice to them

7) Repair, fix and mend are three verbs which have a very similar meaning but can you remember which action went with which verb in the story?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| a) Repair | 1) the dodgy stereo |
| b) Fix | 2) broken door handle |
| c) Mend | 3) the wobbly table |

8) What preposition is missing from the following sentence?

'I can check the times of the flights ___ my smart phone.'

9) Is this sentence true or false?

Manolo would rather stay at home than go to Scotland

10) Which of the following is the odd one out? (i.e. Which one has a different meaning from the rest?)

- a) You're joking
- b) You're kidding
- c) You're pulling my hair
- d) You're pulling my leg



End of Episode 6



Key to exercises

Exercise 1: Questions and Answers

1. Manolo refers to the fact that he has literally had a shave and that he survived a dangerous experience.
2. A passer-by discovered Barbiturate trying to drag Manolo into a hole.
3. Manolo mistakenly believes the party is for him.
4. Maria threw the party for Bert.
5. Rokale says Bert played with the kids, took Barbiturate for walks and kept Maria company.
6. Manolo threatens to sort Bert out.
7. Manolo says he has 'a bone to pick with him'.
8. Bert tells Manolo to go and lie down in the spare room.
9. Bert has repaired the broken door handle, fixed the wobbly table, and mended the dodgy stereo.
10. Manolo doesn't bother to unpack his suitcase.

Exercise 2: Listening

A Close Shave

That was a close **shave** in more ways than one, I'm not naturally **bald**, you know. Not many people get **struck** on the head by **lightning** and live to tell the **tale**. I'm being **discharged** from hospital today after a month in intensive **care** and then another in the general **ward**. The nurses, doctors and **surgeons** have done a great job, I feel as **fit** as a **fiddle**.

Man's Best Friend

I was very **lucky** after the accident; a **passer-by** discovered Barbiturate trying to **drag** me into a big hole he had dug. If she hadn't come **along** Barbiturate would have **buried** me alive. He says he **mistook** me for a pile of **bones** left over from a **barbeque**.

Off Home

Well, I'm **off** now. I've said goodbye to everybody here so now I'm going home to my family. To be **honest** I've really enjoyed the last two months; no **screaming** kids, no **noisy** neighbours and none of Maria's **awful** cooking. Oh well, back to the **real** world.

Welcome Home Manolo?

What's all that **noise**? It **sounds** like a **party** and it's coming from my flat. How **weird**! I don't **believe** it, it must be a **welcome** home party for me. Well I **never**! Maybe coming home **won't** be so bad after all.



A Misunderstanding

Hello everybody, I'm **home**. I can't tell you how **wonderful** it is to see you all again. How **kind** of you to have a **party** for me. It's **great** to be **back** home to be with my **lovely** family and **neighbours** again.

Rokale

Don't be an **idiot** Manolo this **party** isn't for you. Maria has **thrown** the party for Bert to **thank** him for all the **help** he has given her **while** you were **away**.

Manolo

You're **kidding**! I knew it was **too** good to be **true**. And what **exactly** do you **mean** by 'help' **anyway**?

Rokale

He's **spent** more time in this flat in the **last** two months than you ever have, playing with the **kids**, taking Barbiturate for **walks**, **keeping** Maria company, etcetera, etcetera... You've **got** a lot to **thank** him for.

Manolo

Me **thank** him? You must be **joking**! I'll soon **sort** him out!

Manolo

Hey Bert, I've got a **bone** to **pick** with you.

Barbiturate

Did someone **mention** bones?

Bert

Hello Manolo. Maria and I weren't **expecting** you so **soon**. We were **planning** to finish the party before you **got** home. Why don't you go **through** to one of the **spare** bedrooms and **lay** down until it's all over. You must be very **tired**.

Manolo

What a **nerve**! You come into my house **behind** my back, look **after** my family and dog and then, by the **looks** of it, you repair the **broken** door **handle**, **fix** the **wobbly** table, **mend** the **odgy** stereo... You, you... words **fail** me!

Maria

That's **typical** of you Manolo. You've **only** been home for five **minutes** and you've made a **spectacle** of **yourself** already. Now, take Barbiturate **out** for a walk and don't come **back** until you've **calmed** down.

Barbiturate

Hey **don't** ask me if I want to go out, will you? I'm having a very nice **time** here, thank you very much. I'm getting **on** very well with the **poodle** from **downstairs** and this could be a turning **point** in our **relationship**.



Manolo

Well, I can see I'm not **wanted** here. I know what I'll do. I **won't** even bother to **unpack**. I'm going to go to the **airport** and take the first **available** flight to Scotland.

Everybody

Bye Manolo, have a nice **trip**.

Good Old Bert

Wow, that couldn't have gone better **even** if I'd **planned** it. I thought I was going to have to **cancel** that **trip** to Scotland because I'd been away from home for **such** a long time. Good old Bert!

Taxi to the airport

Taxi! **While** I'm on the **way** to the airport in the taxi I can **check** the times of the **flights** on my smart phone and **buy** a ticket too.

At the Airport

Here we are at the **airport**. ¿19.95 euros? Here's a 20 euro **note**, keep the **change**. Scotland **here** I come!

Exercise 4: Quiz

Answers

- 1) a, c
- 2) d
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) b
- 6) b
- 7) a-2, b-3, c-1
- 8) on
- 9) False
- 10) c