

# The Ticket Inspector



SCENE  
A compartment on a train

CHARACTERS  
A passenger on a train  
A ticket inspector  
A steward and a waiter

I  
The passenger is sitting in a compartment on a train. He is reading a newspaper. The steward opens the door.

STEWARD .  
Coffee!

PASSENGER X  
No, thanks.  
The passenger closes the door, and continues reading. The waiter opens the door.

WAITER  
Seats for dinner!

PASSENGER  
No, thanks.

The passenger closes the door again, and continues reading. The ticket inspector opens the door.

INSPECTOR  
Tickets!

PASSENGER  
No, thanks.  
INSPECTOR  
Pardon?  
PASSENGER  
I don't want a ticket, thank you.  
INSPECTOR  
I'm not *selling* tickets, sir.  
PASSENGER  
No?  
INSPECTOR  
No. I want to *see your* ticket.  
PASSENGER  
Oh, I haven't got a ticket.  
INSPECTOR  
You haven't got a ticket?  
PASSENGER  
No. I never buy a ticket.  
INSPECTOR X  
Why not?  
PASSENGER  
Well, they *are* very expensive, you know.  
INSPECTOR  
Sir, you're travelling on a train. When people travel on a train, they always buy a ticket.  
PASSENGER  
Er -  
INSPECTOR  
And *this* is a first-class compartment.  
PASSENGER  
Yes, it is very nice, isn't it?  
INSPECTOR  
No, sir. I mean: This is a *first-class* compartment. When people travel in a first-class compartment, they always buy a first-class ticket.  
INSPECTOR  
*They look at each other for a moment.*  
PASSENGER  
No, they don't.  
INSPECTOR  
What?  
PASSENGER  
A lot of people don't buy tickets. The Queen doesn't buy a ticket, does she? Eh? Eh?  
INSPECTOR  
No, sir, but *she's* a famous person.  
PASSENGER  
And what about you? Where's yours?  
INSPECTOR  
Mine?  
PASSENGER X  
Yes, yours. Your ticket. Have you got a ticket?  
INSPECTOR  
Me, sir?  
PASSENGER  
Yes, you.

