



The Funny Thing About...

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Teacher:

Par excellence.

Klaus-Dieter Rossade:

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Hugh Laurie:

Who's had a chance to look at Romeo and Juliet since last week? (laughter) Anyone? No, well, I know you've all been busy, difficult to make time, but anybody at all? No, ok, good. So you're all coming to it fresh. That's probably better in fact, well done, good. Right now, first of all, this is Mr Lewis. He's just popped in to see how we're all getting on. Just ignore him. Well you know, don't ignore him but you know. Here's an interesting one, I wonder, who can tell me what ignore means? Anybody tell me what ignore means?

Klaus-Dieter Rossade:

I think possibly every teacher feels for him, that we might laugh about it but we also feel for him because we've all been in that situation when you come with a perfectly prepared lesson plan, you go into the class and it might have worked many, many lessons before but this morning with this group of students it just doesn't.

Hugh Laurie:

Who'd like me to write it down? Hands up who'd like me to write it down. Ignore. No-one? So we're happy with ignore.

Klaus-Dieter Rossade:

I would hope it doesn't apply to language teaching. our materials are designed to really engage them actively with a text, with an audio source or with a video clip.

Inspector Crabtree:

I have broon [sic] greetings from British Intelligence Headquarters [sic].

Renee Artois:

What does he say?

Michelle:

I think he brings greetings from British Intelligence Headquarters.

Inspector Crabtree:

I have disguised as policeman so I am able to move about with complete freedom.

Michelle:

Do you think he will get away with that accent?

Renee Artois:

As long as he does not speak, yes.

Klaus-Dieter Rossade:

Pronunciation is of course something that if you get it wrong then in the case of Office Crabtree, it's a matter of life and death for him. In real life it's not quite as dangerous to mispronounce.

Man: (intelligible)

Klaus-Dieter Rossade:

If you go out in the street... you will hear all sorts of accents and dialects. At the Open University we put a lot of emphasis on what we call...intercultural learning. If you want to really pass as a French national, you have to actually know a lot about the local customs the way things are said. The metaphors that you use. About 10% of companies actually employ migrants because of the language skills and ...about 13% go abroad because they can not get the language skills here in the UK. There's a huge gap, there's huge potential and it'd be great if we could fill that potential.