

~~ERNIE'S~~ ELLIE'S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS

AM Advanced Intermediate 2025/26 Cast List

In order of appearance

ELLIE ERNIE	<i>Sophia P</i>	ENGLISH OFFICER	<i>Isabella S</i>
MRS ROBINSON	<i>Alba S</i>	FRENCH OFFICER 1	<i>Scott M</i>
MARY	<i>Kayra G</i>	FRENCH OFFICER 2	<i>Tom A</i>
WENDY	<i>Isabella S</i>	FRENCH OFFICER 3	<i>Saffron B</i>
SUSAN	<i>Louisa C</i>	OFFICER	<i>Orla S</i>
JANET	<i>Scarlett W</i>	OFFICER 2	<i>Ava S</i>
MICHAEL MARGARET	<i>Tom A</i>	AUNTIE MAY	<i>May H</i>
DOCTOR	<i>Jenna A</i>	FIRST BARKER	<i>Alba S</i>
RECEPTIONIST	<i>Saffron B</i>	SECOND BARKER	<i>Kayra G</i>
PATIENT 1	<i>Arianna C</i>	THIRD BARKER	<i>Louisa C</i>
PATIENT 2	<i>Ava S</i>	FOURTH BARKER	<i>Isabella S</i>
PATIENT 3	<i>Kaitlyn K</i>	BRIAN	<i>Kaitlyn K</i>
PATIENT 4	<i>May H</i>	HARRY	<i>Gabrielle F</i>
PATIENT 5	<i>Gabrielle F</i>	REFEREE	<i>Saffron B</i>
PATIENT 6	<i>Orla S</i>	MAN	<i>Scott M</i>
DOCTOR 2	<i>Layla O</i>	SECOND MAN	<i>Tom A</i>
DOCTOR 3	<i>Louis M</i>	KID SARACEN	<i>Arianna C</i>
DOCTOR 4	<i>Laurence N</i>	MIKE	<i>Laurence N</i>
DOCTOR 5	<i>Scarlett W</i>	KEN	<i>Louis M</i>
MUM	<i>Lilah Z</i>	LADY	<i>Layla O</i>
DAD	<i>Kani S</i>	LIBRARY ATTENDANT	<i>Kayra G</i>
		TRAMP	<i>Arianna C</i>
		LIBRARIAN	<i>Scarlett W</i>
		SECOND LIBRARIAN	<i>Louisa C</i>

plus Patients, Soldiers, Crowds, Boxers, etc.

The action takes place in a doctor's waiting-room, the surgery and elsewhere. Time - the present.

At one side of the stage is a doctor's waiting-room. It is filled with an assortment of miserable-looking patients, coughing, wheezing, sneezing and moaning. Amongst them sit Mr and Mrs Fraser and their son, Ernie

Ernie *(to the Audience)* If you ever want to feel ill - just go and spend a happy half-hour in a doctor's waiting-room. If you're not ill when you get-there, you will be when you leave.

Enter Mrs Robinson followed by Mary, Wendy, Susan, Janet and Margaret all scared, running in behind her.

Mrs Robinson Where is he?!

Mary We don't know Mrs Robinson.

Mrs Robinson That chair's not straight

Wendy No, Mrs Robinson

Mrs Robinson Then straighten it!

Wendy Yes, Mrs Robinson

Mrs Robinson Mary?

Mary Yes, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson I want him found!

Mary Yes, Mrs Robinson

Mrs Robinson Susan?

Susan Yes, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson Your button is undone...

Susan Sorry, Mrs Robinson

Mrs Robinson This is a surgery not a catwalk!

Susan No, Mrs Robinson

Mrs Robinson You're employed to ease the heart rates, not encourage them!

Susan Yes, Mrs Robinson, I mean no, Mrs Robinson.

Mrs Robinson Just because you're standing next to Janet, doesn't mean you have to adopt her brain power also.

Susan No, Mrs Robinson

Janet Sorry, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson Janet?

Janet Yes, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson Could you try and at least look as if you're with us today?

Janet But I thought I thought was with you today... what should I be looking like if I'm not?

Mrs Robinson Don't tempt me!

Janet Sorry, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson Wendy?

Wendy Yes, Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson Now *that* chair is not straight.

Wendy No, Mrs Robinson.

Mrs Robinson Margaret, what are you doing?

Margaret Mrs Robinson?

Mrs Robinson What are you doing?
Margaret Nothing, Mrs Robinson.
Mrs Robinson But you shouldn't be doing nothing, should you, Margaret?
Margaret No, Mrs Robinson.
Mrs Robinson What should you be doing, Margaret?
Margaret I don't know, Mrs Robinson?
Mrs Robinson You should be looking for that no good Doctor, Margaret
Margaret Yes, Mrs Robinson
Mrs Robinson All of you should be looking for that useless, feeble excuse for a Doctor. Because if you don't find him so that I can throttle him, I shall have to throttle one of you instead. These hands are determined to throttle, and they don't care who's neck they tighten around, do I make myself clear?
ALL Yes, Mrs Robinson
Mrs Robinson *(Slight pause)* So, go on, find him!
ALL Yes, Mrs Robinson.

They Exit

Mrs Robinson Wendy!!
Wendy Yes, Mrs Robinson?
Mrs Robinson Are these chairs straight?
Wendy Yes, Mrs Robinson
Mrs Robinson If these chairs are straight, Wendy, then we're all standing on a slant.
Wendy Sorry, Mrs Robinson ...
Mrs Robinson Or whilst I've been busy ushering those fools around, the surgery has obviously been subject to either gail force winds, an earthquake or even worse, we've been victims of a silent Spanish Bull Run!
Wendy I don't understand, Mrs Robinson
Mrs Robinson I'll do it! *(Mrs Robinson straightens the chairs as she speaks...)* Wendy?
Wendy That looks fine Mrs....
Mrs Robinson Go and find the Doctor!
Wendy Yes, Mrs Robinson...

She exits, almost in tears. Enter the Doctor, seeing Mrs Robinson, thinks of something Doctory to say!

Doctor Yes, yes... and spoon full of sugar should help the medicine go down!

Receptionist Eh?!

Mrs Robinson Doctor!

Doctor Argh! Ahh, Mrs Roberts... Robins... ROBINSON! Yes, Robinson, how are we?

Mrs Robinson Not good.

Doctor Oh dear, would you like to come through?

Mrs Robinson No I would not!

Doctor Can't be that bad then!

Mrs Robinson It's not to do with me... it's to do with you.

Doctor Me? But I'm fine!

Mrs Robinson Not for much longer you won't be!

Doctor I'm not sure I'm following you here Mrs Ro... *(Stern look from Mrs Robinson)* Robinson!

Mrs Robinson Right, well let me make myself clear...

Doctor Right

Mrs Robinson Right

Doctor Right

Mrs Robinson RIGHT! I have been at the surgery now for over 45 minutes and not once have I seen sight of its 'Head Doctor'.

Doctor That's not unusual

Mrs Robinson No, you're right it's not... it is however if the Doctor isn't in fact busy!

Doctor Busy?

Mrs Robinson Yes busy.

Doctor Oh but I have been.

Mrs Robinson Been what?

Doctor Busy

Mrs Robinson Busy?

Doctor Yes, very busy!

Mrs Robinson Doing what?

Doctor *(Jokingly)* Doing what?! You know... Doctor's... stuff!

Mrs Robinson No I don't know! What 'stuff'?

Doctor Oh, erm... you know erm... I had a... a... *(Suddenly comes to the Doctor)* patient!

Mrs Robinson Patient?

Doctor Yes, well, *patients* actually!

Mrs Robinson Patients?

Doctor *(unsure)* Yes?

Mrs Robinson Patients, Doctor is about the only thing I don't have at this moment!

Doctor Really? Well you should come here more often then, I've got loads of them!

Mrs Robinson Yes I know that! Now where have you really been?

Doctor Been?

Mrs Robinson Yes, been?

Doctor Really been?

Mrs Robinson Yes, really bin!

Doctor Bin?

Mrs Robinson Yes!

Doctor *(w)really bin?*

Mrs Robinson YES!

Doctor Well there's a wheely bin just outside the fire exit, back round where you came from...

Mrs Robinson NOT wheely bin, you moron! REALLY BEEN! As in, your presence before this moment occurring right now!

Doctor I didn't know we were doing presence! Is it your birthday, is someone leaving?!

Mrs Robinson Yes, you will be leaving very shortly! Through a very large cannon if you're not careful!

Doctor But I thought you said...

Mrs Robinson All I am interested in is your work, or what seems to be the case at the moment, is your lack of it!

Doctor I see...

Mrs Robinson Good.

Doctor Good?

Mrs Robinson Good that you see eye to eye with me...

Doctor *(Trying to get to eye level)* Eye to eye?

Mrs Robinson LOOK! *(Doctor looks around/behind him)* AT ME!

Doctor I was trying!

Mrs Robinson Just make sure you keep working. You've got a waiting room full of patients out there and they all need your help!

Doctor All of them?

Mrs Robinson So get on with it! *(Mrs Robinson exits)*

Doctor Yes Mrs Robertson... ROBINSON! *(Mrs Robinson is now out of sight)* Right away your majesty!

Mrs Robinson *(off stage)* I heard that!

Doctor Next!

Receptionist The Doctor will see you now

Doctor How can I help?

Patient 1 Well, you see doctor, I've been having problems with my mouth

Doctor Right, let's take a look *(Doctor accidepokes them in the eye!)*

Patient 1 'Ow!

Doctor What?

Patient 1 Ow, my eye!

Doctor Your eye? I thought you said it was your mouth?

Patient 1 It is my mouth!

Doctor I wish you would make up your mind!

Time-lapse/over-lapping style of moving from patient to patient.

Patient 2 Well, over the last few days, I've had this terrible pain, right in the...

Patient 3 *Crutch!* I'm gonna need two actually mate, you see I was skiing in Austria when I fell down the hill side and twisted my ank...

Receptionist *Call...* for Doctor Smith, Doctor Smith? A call for Doctor Smith on line...

Patient 4 *Two...* of you sit there and behave yourselves! Now mummy's just popping into the room to see the doctor and if either of you move, you shall be grounded for a whole...

Doctor 2 Year... I'm afraid, one whole year of intense physiotherapy and that should see you back to normal. Otherwise, I'm afraid you just might end up...

Patient 5 Dead... serious Doctor, the pain is unbearable. There I was, pleasantly riding on my bike, then the next second I'm...

Patient 6 Down... doctor, much further down. I think I pulled it whilst out on a mountaineering expedition with the Girl Guides in Scotland. I mean, I'm never one to pass up a challenge but the mountains in Scotland are huge... in fact I said to my friend Sophie...

Doctor 3 *That's Massive!* Just look at that swelling! My word... and all because you got hit in the...

Doctor 4 *Balls...* stress balls. Designed to release one's inner most tension and sooth all the worries of the day with one continuous motion. Feel it now from your head all the way down through your pel...

Doctor 5 Vis shouldn't vurt abit! I vill place vis once on ze arm and sven I say, you shall forget all about the pain, the grieving and the...

Receptionist Morning... would you like to come through?

Mum Come on, Ernie

Receptionist Mr and Mrs Fraser, Doctor.

Mum Thank you

Doctor Yes, thank you!

Mum/Dad Morning... Doctor

Doctor Ah ha... so...

Mum Mr and Mrs Fraser, with our son, Ernie

Doctor I see and who is it you've brought with you?

Mum Our son, Ernie.

Doctor Then why didn't you say? (*Mum and Dad look at each other*) And your names are?

Dad Mr and Mrs Fraser

Doctor (*Looking through the notes*) With the limp?

Mum Our *son*, Ernie!

Doctor Ah, now we're getting somewhere! Ah yes. Ernie. I've been hearing all sorts of things about you, young Ernie. Now what have you been up to, eh?

Dad Illucinations

Doctor Beg your pardon?

Dad Illucinations

Doctor Illucinations?

Dad Illucinations

Doctor Illuci...?

Dad Illuci... (*Reassuringly*)

Doctor Ha/ luci...?

Dad Halluci? (*Confused*)

Doctor Oh yes... illuci, quite yes.

Mum What my husband means, Doctor, is that Ernie has been creating these illusions.

Doctor Ah.

Mum Well, they're more than illusions, really.

Dad I'll say.

Doctor Beg pardon?

Dad I'll say.

Mum He's been causing that much trouble. At school, at home, everywhere he goes. I mean we can't go on like this. His dad's not as strong as he was, are you, Albert?

Dad No.

Doctor What?

Dad No.

Doctor Perhaps it would be better if you told me a little more about it. When did you first notice this?

Mum Ah well ...

Dad Ah.

Mum Now then...

Dad Now ...

Mum He'd have been ... well, it'd have been about ... near enough ... er ...

Doctor Go on.

Ernie steps forward. During his speech Mum and Dad remain seated. The doctor moves to the side of the stage, produces a notebook and makes note on what follows.

Ernie It started with these daydreams. You know, the sort everybody gets. Where you suddenly score a hat trick in the last five minutes of the Cup Final, or you bowl out the West Indies for ten runs - or saving your granny from a blazing helicopter, all that sort of rubbish. It was one wet Saturday afternoon and me and my mum and my dad were all sitting about in the happy home having one of those exciting afternoon rave-ups we usually have in our house.

Ernie sits at the table in the Doctor's chair and starts to read a book. Mum has started knitting and Dad just sits, gazing ahead of him. There is a long silence.

Ernie It was all go in our house.

Pause

Mum I thought you'd be at the match today, Albert.

Dad Not today.

Mum Not often you miss a game.

Dad They're playing away.

Mum Oh.

Dad In Birmingham. I'm damned if I'm going to Birmingham. Even for United.

Ernie Meanwhile - While this exciting discussion was in progress, I was reading this book about the French wartime resistance workers and of the dangers they faced - often arrested in their homes. I started wondering what would happen if a squad of soldiers turned up at our front door, having been tipped off about the secret radio transmitter hidden in our cistern - when suddenly ...

Enter English Officer followed by a troop of marching soldiers.

English Off Company... attention! Right, any of you maggots move and that includes blinking *and* breathing, then you will be marching round the square until the early hours of tomorrow morning! Do I make myself clear?

All YES

English Off Yes... WHAT?!

All (*A mixture of response, all at different times*) Erm... Mr... Corporal... Man?

English Off SIR!

All Sir, yes sir!

English Off You disgusting wastes of space you. You vile, puke snifferling pigs! Call yourselves soldiers? I've seen better soldiers down the local over 60's bingo hall on a Tuesday night! Never have I seen a squad so full of ugly, annoying, filthy cry-babies! Do you miss your mummies, gentlemen, is that it? Daddy didn't love you enough, that it? Well I'm your Daddy now boys and I can tell you I don't love you either – not one of you! I hate you! I hate you all! You hopeless, no good dirt festering slobs!

Ernie Erm, I meant *French* soldiers.

English Off (*Disappointed*) Oh!

English Officer walks off sad. The squad turn around and 'put on' something French looking! Berets, scarfs, paint pallets, French sticks, onions etc.

French Officer 1 Viva la France!

French Officer 2 Oui Oui!

French Officer 3 Baguette!

The squad snap their feet together to 'Attention'. Officer walks towards the entrance of Ernie's house.

Ernie You can't go in there

Officer Why not?

Ernie Because it's locked.

Officer Locked?

Ernie Probably

Officer Probably?

Ernie Probably locked

Officer Nonsense!

Officer goes to open the door but Ernie rattles the handle.

Ernie See, locked.

Officer Get out of my way

Officer throws Ernie out of the way

Ernie (*Grabbing the Officer*) You can't go in there!

Officer What ze hell do you think you're doing?

Ernie You don't want to walk in there!

Officer What?!

Ernie In there, you don't want to *walk* in there

Officer I do!

Ernie You don't!

Officer I bloody well do!

Officer goes for the door again and Ernie makes another lunge

Ernie What you want is a tank

Officer What?

Ernie A tank! To smash the wall down!

Officer I know I want a tank, but I haven't got a tank have I?

Ernie But you could use mine

Officer Yours

Ernie Yes

Officer Have you got a tank?

Ernie Yes. No!

Officer Out of ze way

Ernie But you could use the car?

Officer Car?

Ernie Use the car!

Officer I don't want to use ze car

Ernie Bike?

Officer You lunatic!

Ernie *(getting more desperate!)* My bike, use my bike!

Officer Stand back you imbecile or I shall turn nasty!

Ernie Scooter? Skateboard? Space hopper?!

Officer Get out of the way... wait!

Ernie What?

Officer What time is it?

Ernie I don't know look out your watch

Officer Don't start getting cheeky

Ernie All right, I'll look at your watch

Officer Non, it's twenty past

Ernie No I've never really liked twenty past myself either... *(Heads in doors)*

Officer Stay where you are ningkimpoob!

Ernie backs off, hands raised, as Officer pulls out Walkie-Talkie

Officer This is Mother Goose, come in Ground Control, do you read me, over?

Officer 2 *(Off stage, making the sound of a walkie-talkie)* KCH, come in Mother Goose.
Ground Control here, reading you loud and clear... KCH

Officer Ground Control, we have a 1-14-9 in situation, requesting an urgent 10-16 to 10-4, two, one, zero over.

Officer 2 KCH, roger that Mother Bird, the eagle is fleeing the nest, west west north and is in flight to you now, alfer mayo, Mondeo, Toyota, Citroen, Saxo... KCH

Officer A- its Mother Goose, not Mother Bird! B- we end our transmissions with word 'over' and 3- you *do not* have to do the sound 'KCH' of the end of each call... over!

Officer 2 KCH, affirmative, a negative, arithmetic... repeat last transmission, over... under, sideways, backwards... KCH

Officer Oh Cordon Bleu! Just "over", say "over" over

Officer 2 KCH "over, over" KCH

Officer NON! One over and you do not have to do the noise every time...

Officer 2 Over?

Officer OVER!!

Officer 2 entering the stage. Ernie sneaks off stage during the following dialogue.

Officer 2 KCH, bravo, bravado, avocado, where are you positioned? KCH

Officer **OVER!!**

Officer 2 KCH, well if it is over I turn back KCH

Officer Ces que say! Turn back you fool...

Officer 2 turns back to face Officer 1

Officer 2 Over?

Officer It will be for you...

Officer 2 Me?

Officer Wee!

Officer 2 Oh Mont Blanc!

Officer (*realising Ernie is no longer there*) Non! I don't believe it!

The Officer knocks on door

Dad That the door

Mum What?

Dad The door.

Mum Was it?

Officer Open zis door. Open the door! (*He knocks again*)

Mum Oh, that'll be the milkman wanting his money. He always comes round about now. Albert, have you got ten bob ... ?

Dad (*fumbling in his pockets*) Ah ...

Officer (*shouting*) Open zis door immediately. Or I shall order my men to break it down! (*He bangs on the door again*)

Mum Just a minute. Coming.

Dad Should have one somewhere ...

Officer We know you're in there, English spy! Come out with your hands up. . .!

Mum What's he shouting about? Oh, I'd better ask him for three pints next week, if Auntie May's coming. . .

Officer Zis is your last chance ... *(He knocks again)*

Mum Oh shut up ...

The Officer signals his men. Two of them step back, brace their shoulders and prepare to charge the door

Mum I'm coming - I'm coming.

Ernie I shouldn't go out there, Mum ...

Mum What?

Ernie I said don't go out there.

Mum What ... ?

Ernie It's not the milkman. It's a squad of enemy soldiers.

Mum Who?

Ernie They've come for me ...

Mum Who has?

Ernie The soldiers. They've found out about the radio transmitter.

Mum What radio?

Dad Hey, here, that's a point. Have you paid our telly licence yet, Ethel? It might be the detector van.

Mum Oh, sit down, Albert. Stop worrying. It's just Ernie. Shut up, Ernie.

Ernie But Mum...

Dad I think I'll take the telly upstairs. Just in case ...

The Soldiers charge at the door. A loud crash

Ernie Don't go out, Mum.

Mum Shut up!

Dad *(picking up the television, struggling, with it)* Just take it upstairs.

Ernie *(to Mum)* Don't go!

Mum I can't leave him out there. The way he's going he'll have the door off its hinges in a minute...

She moves to the door

Dad Mind your backs. Out of my way ...

Ernie Mum...

Mum opens the door just as the two Soldiers are charging for the second time. They shoot past her, straight into the hall, collide with Dad and land in a heap with him. Dad manages to hold the television above his head and save it from breaking

Mum Hey...

Dad Oy!

The Officer and the other Soldiers enter. Ernie crouches behind the table

Officer Ah-ha! The house is surrounded

Officer 2 Surrounded
Mum Who are you?
Officer Put up your hands. My men will search the house
Officer 2 Search the house!
Dad Hey...
Officer We know you're hiding in here, you can't get away...
Officer 2 Get away... I mean can't get away
Dad Hey - hey - HEY!
Officer Ah-ha. What have we here?
Officer 2 Ah-ha... here?!
Dad Oh. It's the telly. The neighbour's telly. Not mine
Officer Ah-ha
Officer 2 Ah-ha
Dad Just fixing it for him, you see...
Officer Outside
Officer 2 Outside
Officer *(To Officer 2)* You, inside!
Officer 2 Inside?
Dad Eh?
Officer You come with me
Officer 2 Come with me
Dad What in this? I'm not going out in this rain
Officer Outside or I shoot
Officer 2 Shoot!
Officer *(to Officer 2)* Inside or I shoot!
Officer 2 Sho... oh!
Dad Here...
Mum Albert
Ernie Hold it! Drop those guns!
Officer Ah, so... *(she raises her gun)*
Ernie Da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da.

The Soldiers collapse and are strewn all over the hall. Mum screams. Then there is a silence

Mum Oh, Ernie. What have you done?
Ernie Sorry, Mum.
Dad Oh, lad ...
Mum Are they dead ?
Dad Yes.

Mum screams again

Mum Steady, steady. This needs thinking about.
Mum Thinking about?
Dad Yes

Mum Thinking about?

Dad Yes!

Mum What's there to think about?! We have a house full of dead soldiers, wiped out entirely by the hands of our only child, I have probably shattered my ankle beyond repair and there is still no sign of the bloody milkman!

Dad *(pause)* Are you alright dear?

Mum Are you not listening?!

Dad I think we had better calm down.

Mum We? We don't need to calm down, we are not agitated! / am! It's me! Not you and now I've gone and broken my ankle.

Dad Well can you stand on it?

Mum Only whilst enduring the most torturous pain.

Dad Well it's not broken then.

Mum How do you know it's not broken, it's my ankle not yours!

Dad You wouldn't be able to move around like that if it was broken.

Mum God it hurts!

Dad You've probably just twisted it?

Mum I've probably twisted it so much I've broken it!

Dad Don't be such a baby

Mum And now I feel faint

Dad No you don't

Mum Yes I do

Dad You just *think* you feel faint

Mum *Think* I feel faint?

Dad Yes

Mum What's the difference between *thinking* I feel faint and *actually* feeling faint?!

Dad If you *think* you feel faint, you probably won't faint but if you really did *feel* faint, you'd just... *(Mum collapses to the floor)* fall to the floor... dear?!

Dad shakes her and slaps her face lightly to wake her up. Mum slaps him back!

Dad Ouch!

Mum Sorry

Dad You slapped me!

Mum Only because you slapped me first!

Dad I slapped you first because you fainted

Mum You told me that I wasn't going to!

Dad So I was wrong! Can you get up?

Mum Up where?

Dad Up, up?

Mum I think so, I think so?

Dad Why are you repeating yourself?

Mum You started it!

Mum stands up

Dad How's your ankle?
Mum Fine, how's yours?
Dad Before you fainted you'd hurt your ankle remember?
Mum Oh yes

She hobbles around on her ankle

Dad The other ankle!
Mum I know that but I hurt this ankle when I fainted!
Dad For god's sake woman, pull yourself together!
Mum What about the neighbours?
Dad Could create a bit of gossip, this could.
Mum What about the carpet? Look at it.
Dad Hasn't done that much good.
Mum What'll we do with them?
Dad Needs a bit of thinking about.

Ernie steps forward. As he speaks and during the next section, Dad and Mum carry off the bodies

Ernie Well, Mum and Dad decided that the best thing to do was to pretend it hadn't happened. That was usually the way they coped with all emergencies ...

The Doctor steps forward

Mum (*struggling with a body*) We waited till it got dark, you see ...
Doctor Yes? And then ... ?
Dad We dumped 'em.
Doctor I beg your pardon?
Dad We dumped 'em. Took 'em out and dumped 'em.
Doctor Dumped them? Where, for heaven's sake?
Dad Oh - bus shelters - park benches ...
Mum Corporation car-park.
Dad Left one in the all-night cafeteria.
Mum And one in the Garden of Rest.
Dad Caused a bit of a rumpus.
Doctor I'm not surprised.
Mum We had the police round our way for days - trying to sort it out ...
Dad They never did get to the bottom of it, though.
Doctor Extraordinary. And then?
Ernie (*stepping forward*) And then - Auntie May arrived to stay. I liked my Auntie May.

Auntie May enters. The Doctor steps back again

Auntie 'Ullo, Ernie lad. Have a sweetie.
Ernie Ta, Auntie. And Auntie May took me to the fair.

The stage is filled with jostling people, barkers and fairground music. The Barkers speak simultaneously

First Barker Yes, indeed, the world's tallest man! He's so tall, madam, his breakfast is still sliding down him at tea time. Come along now, sir. Come inside now ...

Second Barker Ladies and gentlemen. I am prepared to guarantee that you will never again, during your lifetimes, see anything as unbelievably amazing as the Incredible Porcupine Woman. See her quills and get your thrills. Direct from the unexplored South American Jungle ...

Third Barker Try your luck - come along, madam - leave your husband there, dear, he'll still be there when you come back - tell you what - if he isn't I can sell you a replacement -- five shots for sixpence - knock 'em all down and pick up what you like ...

Ernie Can I have a go on that, Auntie?

Auntie Not now, Ernie.

Ernie Oh go on, Auntie May.

Auntie I want a cup of tea.

Ernie Have an ice-cream.

Auntie I've had three. I can't have any more. It'll bring on my condition ...

Ernie What condition, Auntie?

Auntie Never you mind what. But I should never have had that candy floss as well. I'll suffer for it.

Brian walks up to a stall to buy something for his wife

Brian How much for this one?

Harry What?

Brian It's for the wife.

Harry Oh. Twenty quid

Brian Right.

Harry What?

Brian *(putting the money down)* There you are...

Harry Wait a moment.

Brian What?

Harry We're supposed to haggle.

Brian No, no — I've got to...

Harry What do you mean, 'no'?

Brian I haven't time — I've got to get...

Harry Give it back then.

Brian No, no — I paid you.

Harry *(calls)* Bert! This bloke won't haggle. Where are the guards?

Brian Oh all right — I mean, what do we have to...

Harry Now I want twenty for that...

Brian I gave you twenty!

Harry Now are you telling me that's not worth twenty?

Brian No.

Harry Feel the quality.

Brian Oh — I'll give you nineteen, then...

Harry No, no. Do it properly.

Brian What?

Harry Haggle properly. This isn't worth nineteen.

Brian You just said it was worth twenty!

Harry Bert!

Brian I'll give you ten...

Harry That's more like it (*Angrily*) Ten? Are you trying to insult me? Me? With a poor dying Grandmother...? Ten?!

Brian Eleven.

Harry Now you're getting it. Eleven? Did I hear you right? Eleven?? This cost *me* twelve — d'you want to ruin me?

Brian Seventeen.

Harry Seventeen?!

Brian Eighteen?

Harry No, no, no — you go to fourteen now!

Brian Fourteen.

Harry Fourteen? Are you joking?

Brian That's what you told me to say! (*desperate*) Tell me what to say, please!

Harry Offer me fourteen.

Brian I'll give you fourteen.

Harry (*to the onlookers*) He's offering me fourteen for this!

Brian Fifteen...

Harry Seventeen. My last word. I won't take a penny less, or strike me dead.

Brian Sixteen!

Harry Done! (*shaking Brian's hand*) Nice to do business with you. Tell you what, I'll throw in this as well. (*Gives Brian another item*)

Brian I don't want it, but thanks.

Harry Bert!

Brian All right! All right!! Thank you.

Harry Where's the sixteen then?

Brian I already gave you twenty.

Harry Oh yes ... that's four I owe you then. (*starts looking for change*)

Brian ... It's all right, it doesn't matter.

Harry Hang on.

Brian It's all right, that's four for the gourd — that's fine!

Harry Four for that. Four!! Look at it, that's worth ten if it's worth a quid!

Brian You just gave it to me for nothing!

Harry Yes, but it's *worth* ten.

Brian All right, all right.

Harry No, no, no. It's not worth ten. You're supposed to argue. 'What? Ten for that? You must be mad!' (*Brian pays ten and walks off.*) Ah well, there's one born every minute!

Fourth Barker Just about to start, ladies and gentlemen. A heavyweight boxing bout, featuring the one and only un-official challenger for the heavyweight championship of the world - Kid Saracen. The Kid will be fighting this afternoon, for the very first time, a demonstration contest against the new sensation from Tyneside, Eddie "Grinder" Edwards. In addition, ladies and gentlemen,

the Kid is offering fifty pound - yes fifty pound - to any challenger who manages to last three three-minute rounds ...

Ernie Oh, come on, Auntie. Lets go in and watch.

Auntie What is it?

Ernie Boxing.

Auntie Boxing? I'm not watching any boxing. I don't mind wrestling but I'm not watching boxing. It's bloodthirsty.

Ernie Auntie ...

Auntie Nasty stuff, boxing ...

Fourth Barker Come along, lady. Bring in the young gentleman. Let him see the action ...

Auntie Oh no ...

Fourth Barker Come along. Two is it?

Ernie Yes please. Two.

Fourth Barker Thank you, son.

Auntie Eh ?

Ernie This way, Auntie.

Before Auntie May can protest, she and Ernie are inside the boxing booth. The Crowd have formed a square around the ring in which stand Kid Saracen, Eddie Edwards and the Referee

Referee Ladies and gentlemen, introducing on my right, the - ex-unofficial challenger for the World Heavyweight Championship-KID SARACEN ...

Boos from the Crowd

And on my left, the challenger from Newcastle upon Tyne - EDDIE EDWARDS ...

The Crowd cheers

(To the boxers) Right, I want a good, clean fight, lads. No low blows and when I say "break"- stop boxing right away. Good luck.

The bell rings. The Crowd cheers as the boxers size each other up. They mostly cheer on Edwards - "Come on, Eddie", "Murder him, Eddie", etc. The boxers swap a few punches

Auntie Oooh. I can't look.

The man next to her starts cheering

Man Flatten him, Eddie!

Auntie peers out from behind her hands in time to see the kid clout Eddie fairly hard

Auntie Hey, you stop that!

Man Get at him, Eddie ...

Auntie Yes, that's right, get at him!
Man Hit him!
Auntie Knock him down!
Man Smash him!
Auntie Batter him!

She starts to wave her arms about in support of Eddie, throwing punches at the air

Man That's it, missis. You show 'em.
Auntie I would, I would.
Man Give 'em a run for their money, would you?
Auntie I'm not that old.. .
Man Eddie!
Auntie Come on, Eddie
Ernie Eddie!

In the ring the Kid throws a terrific blow which brings Eddie to his knees

Referee One-two-three-
Man Get up, Eddie...
Auntie Get up ... get up . .
Referee Four. . .

Eddie rises and blunders round the ring. The Kid knocks him clean out. The Referee counts him out. The Crowd boos wildly. The Kid walks smugly round the ring, his hands raised above his head in triumph

Auntie You brute.
Man Boo. Dirty fight...
Auntie Bully ...
Referee (*quietening the crowd*) And now, ladies and gentlemen, the Kid wishes to issue a challenge to any person here who would like to try his skill at lasting three rounds - any person here. Come along now - anybody care to try ...

Muttering from the Crowd

Auntie (*to the ,Man*) Go on then.
Man Who, me?
Auntie What are you frightened of, then?
Man I'm frightened of him ...
Referee Come along now. We're not asking you to do it for nothing. We're offering fifty pounds - fifty pounds, gentlemen.
Auntie Go on. Fifty quid.
Man I'd need that to pay the hospital bill. . .
Auntie Go on

Man It's all right for you, lady-just standing there telling other people to go and get their noses broken.

Auntie All right, then. I'll go in myself Excuse me...

She starts to push through the Crowd towards the ring

Man Hey ...

Ernie Auntie, where are you going?

Auntie Out of my way ...

Man Hey, stop her - she's off her nut...

Ernie Auntie!

Auntie *(hailing the Referee)* Hey, you...

Referee Hallo, lady, what can we do for you? Come to challenge him, have you?

Laughter from the Crowd

Auntie That's right. Help me in.

Referee Just a minute, lady, you've come the wrong way for the jumble sale, this is a boxing-ring...

Auntie I know what it is. Wipe that silly smile off your face. Come on then, rings out of your seconds...

The Crowd cheers

Referee Just a minute. Just a minute. What do you think you're playing at ... ?

Auntie You said anyone could have a go, didn't you?

Woman That's right. Give her a go, then.

Referee *(getting worried)* Now, listen ...

Kid Saracen Go home. There's a nice old lady ...

The Crowd boos

Auntie You cheeky ha'porth.

Second Man Hit him, grandma.

The Crowd shouts agreement

Referee Tell you what, folks. Let's give the old lady fifty pence for being a good sport ...

Auntie I don't want your fifty pence. . . Come on.

Second Man Get the gloves on, granny.

Auntie I don't need gloves. My hands have seen hard work. I was scrubbing floors before he was thought of ...

Man That's right, love.

Ernie *(stepping forward)* And then suddenly I got this idea. Maybe Auntie May could be the new heavyweight champion of the world ...

The bell rings. Auntie May comes bouncing out of her corner flinging punches at the Kid, who looks startled. The Crowd cheers

Auntie Let's have you.

Kid Saracen Hey, come off it!

The Referee tries vainly to pull Auntie May back but she dances out o reach

Kid Saracen Somebody chuck her out.

The Kid turns to appeal to the Crowd. Auntie May punches him in the back

Auntie Gotcher!

Kid Saracen Ow!

Auntie May bombards the Kid with punches

Ernie *(commentator style)* And Auntie May moves in again and catches the Kid with a left and a right to the body and there's a right-cross to the head - and that really hurt him - and it looks from here as if the champ is in real trouble ... as this amazing sixty-eight-year-old challenger follows up with a series of sharp left-jabs-one, two, three, four jabs .

The Kid is reeling back

And then, bang, a right-hook and he's down ...!

The Kid goes down on his knees. The Crowd cheers

Auntie *(to the Referee)* Go on. Start counting.

Crowd One-two-three-four-five-six

Ken Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, you join us live on 'KW 120' from the 'Circus Arena' in the glorious Bognor of Regis. He's Mike

Mike And I'm Mike.

Ken Well what a match we've seen so far Mike

Mike Tell me about it Ken, this lady has got it all!

Ken You said it Mike.

Mike I sure did ken. She's tough, she's strong... ok, she may not be the best lollipop in the candy store, but she has guts!

Ken And how!

Mike Oh my God, look at this Ken!

Ken I am Mike! She has him in a headlock! She's trying a Full Nelson

Mike Body Slam him Mama!

Ken Well Mike if she could, I'm sure she...

Auntie body slams Kid Saracen

Mike Woo-whooh!
Ken Unbelievable folks, I've never seen anything like it
Mike It's incredible Mike... What is she doing now?

Auntie has Kid Saracen in a submission hold

Auntie Tap out... TAP ALREADY!
Ken This is really too much Mike!
Mike Keep it coming Auntie!

Crowd cheer "Auntie Auntie" she signals to the chair

Crowd YEAH!
Ken Oh my, somebody stop her!
Mike Am I dreaming Ken? Is she...?
Ken She is Mike, she's getting the chair
Mike (pure enjoyment) ARRGGHHH! Ha ha!
Ken Kid Saracen doesn't know where he is

Kid Saracen staggers about the ring Auntie smacks him with the chair.

Both OH MY!
Ken That's gotta be it Mike
Mike I hope not Ken... I love this woman!
Ken Well that's all folks
Mike Man!
Ken We hoped you enjoyed yourselves tonight, in what has been the most electrifying evening in years!
Mike (trying to beat him) Months even Ken!
Ken Yes... anyway folks, tune in next week when we see the awesome powerhouse that is 'Sid Evil' against the most winning'est fighter in the ring! This mighty competitor has not been beaten in months gang...
Mike Days even Ken!

Ken Right... he is of course, the all-American hero, 'Mr Ultimate'!
Mike I can hardly wait Ken!
Ken Until then folks...
Referee Come on. Get up – champ.
Kid Saracen Ooooh.

He staggers to his feet. The Kid goes out, supported by the Referee. Ernie, Dad, Mum and the Doctor are left

Doctor (still writing, excitedly) Absolutely incredible!

Mum Terrible it was. It took it out of her, you know. She was laid up all Sunday.
Dad And we had all those fellows round from the Amateur Boxing Association trying to sign her up to fight for the Combined Services.
Mum So I told his dad on the Monday, seeing as it was half term, "Take him somewhere where he won't get into trouble, I said. "Take him somewhere quiet".
Dad So I took him down to the library.

The Doctor retires to the side of the stage again. Dad, Mum and Ernie exit. The scene becomes the Public Library. It is very quiet. Various people tip-toe about. At one end sits an intellectual-looking Lady with glasses, reading; at the other, an old Tramp eating his sandwiches from a piece of newspaper. One or two others. A uniformed Attendant walks up and down importantly. The Lady with glasses looks up at the lights. She frowns

Lady Excuse me ...
Attendant Sssshhh!
Lady Sorry. *(Mouthing silently)* The light's gone.
Attendant *(mouthing)* What?
Lady *(whispering)* I said the light's gone over here.
Attendant *(whispering)* What?
Lady New bulb.

The Attendant shakes his head, still not understanding

(Loudly) UP THERE! YOU NEED A NEW BULB - IT'S GONE. I CAN'T SEE!
People Sssshhhh!
Attendant *(whispering)* Right.
Lady *(whispering)* Thank you.

The Attendant tip-toes out as Dad and Ernie tip-toe in

Dad *(to Ernie)* Sssshhhh!

Ernie nods. They tip-toe and sit

Ernie *(to the Audience)* I didn't really think much of this idea of my mum's...
People Sssshhhh!
Ernie *(whispering)* I didn't really think much of this idea of my mum's. It was a bit like sitting in a graveyard only not as exciting. The trouble is, in library reading-rooms some bloke's pinched all the best magazines already and you're left with dynamic things like *The Pig Breeder's Monthly Gazette* and suchlike. I'd got stuck with *The Bell Ringer's Quarterly*. Which wasn't one of my hobbies. Nobody else seemed to be enjoying themselves either. Except the bloke eating his sandwiches in the corner. I reckoned he wasn't a tramp at all, but a secret agent heavily disguised, waiting to pass on some secret documents to his contact who he was to meet in the library and who was at this very moment lying dead in the Reference Section, a

knife in his ribs. Realizing this, the tramp decides to pick on the most trustworthy-looking party in the room - my dad!

The Tramp gets up stealthily and moves over to Dad. As he passes him he knocks his magazine out of his hand

Dad Hey!

Tramp Beg pardon, mister. *(He bends to pick up the magazine and hands it back to Dad. As he does so he thrusts his newspaper parcel into Dad's hands)* Sssshhhh. Take this. Quickly! They're watching me. Guard it with your life.

Dad Eh?

Throughout this, the Tramp is rolling around and darting to and fro - spy style!

Tramp Guard it with your life

Dad You what?

Tramp Take it

Dad Take it?

Tramp The package

Dad I don't want no package

Tramp Sir, please understand

Ernie I've got a question

Tramp There is no time for questions

Dad No time?

Tramp They've found me, I don't know how they've found me, but they have. They're on to us.

Ernie Us?

Tramp The organisation

Dad What organisation?

Tramp Sir, for the sake of the country...

Dad Eh?

Tramp You must take this and guard it safely

Dad But I don't want it!

Tramp We're out of time

Ernie Time?

Tramp Yes, and we're out of it

Ernie But we've just got here. We've got plenty of it

Tramp You may have, brave soldiers, but I... the mission, does not!

Dad What mission?

Tramp You already know too much

Dad I know bugger all!

Tramp Trust me

Dad Trust you?

Tramp Yes

Ernie What mission?

Tramp I cannot say

Dad Well, what is it?
Tramp I cannot say
Ernie So who's after you?
Tramp I cannot say
Dad You can't say much can you?
Tramp You can say that again!
Dad You can't say much can... *(Realises he's repeated himself)*
Tramp The moment has come
Dad Could you at least please stand still!
Tramp There's no time!
Both Eh?!
Tramp So long, cruel, cruel world!

The Tramp hurries away. A sinister man in a mackintosh gets up and follows him out

Dad Who the heck was that?
Ernie Dunno, Dad.
Dad *(examining the parcel)* What's all this, then?
Ernie Dunno.
Dad I don't want his sandwiches. Spoil my dinner. *(As he unwraps the parcel)* Hey!
Ernie What is it?
Dad Looks like a lot of old blue-prints and things. Funny. This anything to do with you?
Ernie *(innocently)* No, Dad.

The Attendant enters with a stepladder. He places it under the light. A Girl Librarian who has entered with him steadies the stepladder. The Attendant produces a bulb from his pocket and starts to climb the stepladder.

(Watching the Attendant) And now, as Captain Williams nears the summit of this, the third highest mountain in the world, never before climbed by man ...

Wind noises start

He pauses for a moment through sheer exhaustion ...

The Attendant, feeling the effects of the wind, clings to the stepladder for dear life. It sways slightly

Attendant *(shouting down to the Librarian)* More slack. I need more slack on the rope ... !
Librarian *(shout it up to him)* More slack. Are you all right?
Attendant I – think - I can - make it.
Librarian Be careful. The rock looks treacherous just above you.
Attendant It's all right. It's-quite safe-if I - just aaaaaahhh!

He slips and holds on with one hand

Lady Captain! What's happened?
Attendant Damn it. I think I've broken my leg ...
Lady Oh, no.
Librarian How are we going to get him down?

Dad rises

Ernie And here comes Major Fraser, ace daredevil mountaineer, to the rescue.
Lady *(A hot flush)* Oh, Major!
Librarian Major!

Go to kiss the dad's hand, but end up kissing each other's - look at each other

Dad Stand back ladies
Librarian But it's so high
Dad High? I've climbed higher before breakfast!
Lady No Major, you can't go, its too dangerous
Dad Danger, mam, is my middle name!
Both *(melting)* OH!!
Dad Now, give me a number three clambering-iron and a hydraulic drill-lever, will you? I'm going up.

Librarian Oh no, Major.
Dad It's the only way.
Lady Don't be a fool, Major.
Dad Someone's got to go. Give me plenty of line ... *(He starts to climb)*
Librarian Good luck.
Lady Good luck.

A sequence in which Dad clammers up the ladder, buffeted by the wind

Dad Can you hold on?
Attendant Not – much - longer.
Dad Try, man, try. Not much longer...
Lady Keep going, man.

Dad reaches the Attendant. People cheer. The two men slowly descend the ladder

Ernie And here comes the gallant Major Fraser, bringing the injured Captain Williams to safety ...

Dad and the Attendant reach the floor. More cheers and applause from the onlookers. The Attendant is still supported by Dad with one arm round his neck. There is a general shaking of hands. The wind noise stops

Attendant *(coming back to reality, suddenly)* Hey, hey! What's going on here? *(To Dad)* What do you think you're doing?

Dad Oh.
Attendant Let go of me.
Dad Sorry, I ...
Attendant Never known anything like it. This is a public building, you know ...
Dad Ernie . . .
Ernie Yes, Dad?
Dad Did you start this?
Ernie (*innocently*) Me, Dad?
Dad Now listen, lad ...

A Second Librarian enters, screaming

Second Librarian Oh, Mr Oats, Mr Oats...
Attendant What's the matter, girl? What's the matter?
Second Librarian There's a man in the Reference Section.
Attendant Well?
Second Librarian He's dead.
Lady Dead?
Second Librarian Yes. I think he's been killed. There's a knife sticking in his ribs ...

The First Librarian screams. The Attendant hurries out, followed by the others. Ernie and Dad are left

Dad Ernie!
Ernie Sorry, Dad.

The Doctor moves in. Mum joins them

Doctor Incredible.
Dad Embarrassing.
Doctor Yes, yes.

The scene is now back to where it was at the beginning, with the four in the Doctor's room on one side and the waiting-room full of patients on the other

Mum Can you do anything, Doctor?
Doctor Mmmm. Not much, I'm afraid.
Mum No?
Doctor You see, it's not really up to me at all. It's up to you. An interesting case. Very. In my twenty years as a general practitioner I've never heard anything quite like it. You see, this is a classic example of group hallucinations ...
Dad Illucinations, yes.
Doctor Starting with your son and finishing with you all being affected ...
Mum All?
Doctor All of you. You must understand that all this has happened only in your minds.
Dad Just a minute. Are you suggesting we're all off our onions?

Doctor Off your ... ?
Dad You know. Round the thing. Up the whatsit.
Doctor No ...
Dad My missis as well?
Doctor No. No.
Dad Then watch it.
Doctor I was just explaining...
Dad You don't need. It's Ernie here, that's all. He imagines things and they happen.
Doctor Oh, come now. I can't really accept that.
Dad Why not?
Doctor It's - impossible. He may *imagine* things ...
Dad He does.
Doctor But they don't *really* happen. They *appear* to, that's all.
Dad Is that so?
Doctor Of course.

A slight pause

Dad Ernie.
Ernie Yes, Dad.
Dad Imagine something. We'll see who's nutty.
Ernie What, Dad?
Dad Anything, kid, anything. Just to show the doctor.
Mum Nothing nasty, Ernie. Something peaceful...
Dad How about a brass band? I like brass bands.
Mum Oh dear. Couldn't it be something quieter? Like a mountain stream or something ...
Dad Don't be daft, Ethel. The doctor doesn't want a waterfall pouring through his surgery. Go on, lad. A brass band.
Ernie Right, Dad. (*He concentrates*)

A pause

Doctor Well?
Dad Give him a chance.

A pause

Mum Come on, Ernie. (*Pause*) He's 'usually Very good at it, Doctor.
Dad Come on, lad.
Ernie It's difficult, Dad, I can't picture them.
Doctor Yes, well I'm afraid I can't afford any more time just now, Mr and Mrs Fraser. I do have a surgery full of people, unfortunately, all waiting to see me (*he calls*) Miss Bates! So you will understand I really must get on.

The Receptionist enters

Receptionist Yes, Doctor?

Doctor The next patient, please, Miss Bates.

Receptionist *(going)* Yes, Doctor.

The Receptionist exits

Doctor *(Getting up and pacing up and down as he speaks)* What I suggest we do is, I'll arrange an appointment with a specialist and-he'll be able to give you a better diagnosis – *(his steps become more and more march like)* - than I will. I'm quite sure – that – a – few – sessions - with a trained – psychiatrist - will –be – quite – sufficient – to – put – everything – right – right left – right – left –left – left – right - left ...

The Doctor marches to the door of his room, does a smart about turn and marches round his desk. The Patients from the waiting-room enter and follow him, some limping, some marching and all playing, or as if playing, brass instruments

L-e-e-e-ft ... Wheel ...

After a triumphal circuit of the room everyone marches out following the Doctor, who has assumed the role of drum major

Ernie *(just before he leaves)* It looks as though the Doctor suffers from illucinations as well. I hope you don't get 'em. Ta-ta.

Ernie marches out jauntily, following the band, as-

The CURTAIN falls