

Justin Aubertin & Hawke Robinson
ASL III

Monty Python Argument Clinic Skit
GLOSSED

Start introduction to audience before beginning skit itself.
**Hawke: HELLO, MY NAME HAWKE, MY NAME SIGN
“HAWK”.**

Justin: HELLO. MY NAME JUSTIN.
OUR PLAY NAME “A-R-G-U-M-E-N-T C-L-I-N-I-C (signed
ARGUMENT CLINIC)”.
(point to Hawke): HE RECEPTIONIST (type, phone, body).
ME WANT BUY ARGUMENT.

A reception desk in a sort of office building.
Receptionist (sits at desk facing audience, Justin steps out, and
then walks in through door).

(Rita Davies) Yes, sir?

Hawke: HELLO

Man I'd like to have an argument please.

Man: HELLO. ARGUMENT ME WANT BUY PLEASE.

Receptionist Certainly, sir. Have you been here before...?

Receptionist: SURE(true). BEFORE YOU COME HERE?

Man No, this is my first time.

Man: NO. MY FIRST TIME NOW.

Receptionist I see. Do you want to have the full argument, or were you thinking of taking a course?

Receptionist: I UNDERSTAND. ARGUMENT ONLY ONE YOU WANT? O-R ARGUMENT (emphasize)COURSE(emphasize) YOU WANT?

Man Well, what would be the cost?

Man: COST WHAT?

Receptionist Yes, it's one pound for a five-minute argument, but only eight pounds for a course of ten.

Receptionist: WELL, ARGUMENT 5 MINUTES COST ONE BUCK. BUT ARGUMENT COURSE O-F TEN COST ONLY 8 DOLLARS.

Man Well, I think it's probably best if I start with the one and see how it goes from there.

Man: WELL, ARGUMENT ONE I WANT START WITH. AFTER I DECIDE IF I WANT MORE. OK?

Receptionist Fine. I'll see who's free at the moment ... Mr. Du-Bakey's free, but he's a little bit conciliatory ... yes, try Mr. Barnard - Room 12.

Receptionist: FINE. I SEE WHO FREE NOW... M-R D-U-B-A-K-E-Y (place towards window) HE FREE, BUT MUCH (too) CALM (peace). NOT GOOD. OK.

TRY MR. V-I-B-R-A-T-I-N-G NAME SIGN "V"(vibrating).

ROOM 12-A

Man Thank you.

Man: THANK YOU.

scene change

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Justin: NOW. (sign) NEW ROOM. 12-A.

(point to Hawke): NOW HE "V" (name sign)

Outside 12A. The man opens the door.

Mr Vibrating (from within) Come in.

Mr. V: COME IN.

The man enters the room. Mr Vibrating is sitting at a desk.

Man Is this the right room for an argument?

Man: ROOM HERE RIGHT FOR ARGUMENT?

Mr Vibrating I've told you once.

Mr V: ONCE I TOLD YOU.

Man No you haven't.

(very confused)

Man: NO. YOU NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes I have.

Mr V: YES. BEFORE I TOLD YOU.

Man When?

Man: WHEN?

Mr Vibrating Just now!

Mr V: NOW!

Man No you didn't.

Man: NO YOU DID(FINISH) NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did!

Mr V: YES. I DID (FINISH)

Man Didn't.

Man: NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Did.

Mr V: DID (FINISH)

Man: Didn't.

Man: NOT.

Mr Vibrating I'm telling you I did!

Mr V: ME TELL YOU I DID (FINISH)!

Man You did not!

Man: YOU DID(FINISH) NOT!

Mr Vibrating I'm sorry, is this a five minute argument, or the full half hour?

**Mr V: ME SORRY. ARGUMENT ONLY 5 MINUTE THIS?
O-R HALF-HOUR?**

Man Oh ... Just a five-minute one.

(facial expression hesitate, think (for „oh“)),

Man: (oh) 5 MINUTE ONLY.

(now man happy sits down happy, leaning forward like excited kid

in candy shop).

Mr Vibrating Fine (makes a note of it; the man sits down) thank you. Anyway, I did.

Mr V: FINE.

THANK YOU.

(pause, writing then look up).

Man You most certainly did not.

Man: ME SURE YOU DID(FINISH) NOT

(happy)

Mr Vibrating Now, let's get one thing quite clear. I most definitely told you!

Mr V: NOW. WE MUST MAKE CLEAR ONE THING.

TOLD YOU I SURE I DID(FINISH)!

Man You did not.

Man: YOU DO NOT

Mr Vibrating Yes I did.

Mr V: YES. I DID (FINISH)

Man Didn't.

Man: NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did.

Mr V: YES. I DID (FINISH).

Man Didn't.

Man: NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did!!

Mr V: YES. I DID (DO-FINISH)!

Man Look, this isn't an argument.

Man: STOP. ARGUMENT THIS NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes it is.

Mr V: YES. ARGUMENT.

Man No it isn't, it's just contradiction.

Man: NO. NOT ARGUMENT. DO OPPOSITE(counter) ONLY YOU.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.

Mr V: NO I NOT.

Man Yes it is.

Man: YES. YOU.

Mr Vibrating It is not.

Mr V: ME NOT.

Man It is. You just contradicted me.

Man: YES. !NOW! YOU OPPOSITE ME.

Mr Vibrating No I didn't.

Mr V: NO. ME NOT.

Man Ooh, you did!

Man: (facial expression for ooh). YES YOU DID (FINISH)!

Mr Vibrating No, no, no, no, no.

Mr V: NO NO NO NO NO.

Man: You did, just then.

Man: !NOW! YOU DID(FINISH).

Mr Vibrating No, nonsense!

Mr V: NO. SILLY.

Man Oh, look this is futile.

Man: (facial frustration).

WAIT (talk to hand).

THIS ARGUMENT FRUSTRATING.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.

Mr V: NO. NOT TRUE.

Man I came here for a good argument.

Man: ARGUMENT !GOOD! ME COME HERE FOR.

Mr Vibrating No you didn't, you came here for an argument.

Mr V: NO. !ARGUMENT! YOU COME HERE FOR.

Man Well, an argument's not the same as contradiction.

Man: WELL(SO). ARGUMENT NOT-SAME-AS ONLY

OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating It can be.

Mr V: YES. ARGUMENT CAN DO ONLY OPPOSITE.

Man No it can't. An argument is a connected series of statements to establish a definite

proposition.

Man: NO. CAN'T. ARGUMENT SERIES OF SENTENCES
CONNECTED FOR MAKE IDEA CLEAR.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.

(pause, hesitating looking slightly uncertain)

Mr V: NO. NOT TRUE.

Man Yes it is. It isn't just contradiction.

Man: YES. TRUE. NOT-ONLY OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating Look, if I argue with you, I must take up a contrary position.

**Mr V: WELL. IF ME ARGUE WITH YOU. OPPOSITE
POSITION ME !MUST! TAKE-UP.**

Man But it isn't just saying 'No it isn't'.

Man: BUT, YOU !ONLY! SAY NO. YOU TELL-ME !ONLY!
OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating Yes it is.

Mr V: YES. ME TELL-YOU OPPOSITE OK.

Man No it isn't, Argument is an intellectual process ...
contradiction is just the automatic
gainsaying of anything the other person says.

Man: NO. NOT OK. ARGUMENT MEANS INTELLEAGENT
PROCESS(series).

ONLY OPPOSITE, MEANS WHEN I TELL YOU "YES", YOU
ONLY TELL ME "NO".

Vibrating No it isn't.

Mr V: NO.

Man Yes it is.

Man: YES.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.

Mr V: NO.

Man Yes it is.

Man: YES.

Mr Vibrating Not at all.

Mr V: NOT TRUE.

Man Now look!

Man: NOW LOOK!

Mr Vibrating (pressing the bell on his desk) That's it. Good morning.

Mr V: (looks at watch)

STOP. WE FINISH. GOOD MORNING.

Man But I was just getting interested.

Man: BUT INTERESTED I START BECOME.

Mr Vibrating Sorry the five minutes is up.

Mr V: SORRY. 5 MINUTES FINISH.

Man That was never five minutes just now!

Man: ARGUMENT TIME 5 MINUTES NOT-FINISH!

Mr Vibrating I'm afraid it was.

Mr V: ME SORRY. ARGUMENT FINISH.

Man No it wasn't.

(leans forward excited with smile hoping this means he can continue arguing)

Man: NO. NOT FINISH.

Mr Vibrating I'm sorry, I'm not allowed to argue any more.

Mr V: ME SORRY. ARGUE MORE ME NOT-ALLOWED.

Man What!?

Man: WHAT???!

Mr Vibrating If you want me to go on arguing you'll have to pay for another five minutes.

Mr V: ARGUE MORE YOU WANT WITH ME. YOU-PAY-ME AGAIN FOR 5 MINUTES MORE MUST.

Man But that was never five minutes just now ... oh Come on!

(Vibrating looks round as though man was not there) This is ridiculous.

Man: BUT THAT NEVER 5 MINUTES. (oh) PLEASE!

(Vibrating looks round as though man was not there)

THIS SILLY!

Mr Vibrating I'm very sorry, but I told you I'm not allowed to argue unless you've paid.

Mr V: ME VERY SORRY. ME TOLD YOU I NOT ALLOWED ARGUE MORE UNTIL YOU-PAY-ME.

Man Oh. all right. (pays) There you are.

Man: (oh). OK. MONEY MORE I-PAY-YOU (pays money).

Mr Vibrating Thank you.

Mr V: THANK YOU.

Man Well?.

Man: WELL?

(now learning forward happy/excited/smiling again in anticipation).

Mr Vibrating Well what?

Mr V: WELL WHAT?

Man That was never five minutes just now.

Man: BEFORE ARGUMENT 5 MINUTES !NEVER!

Mr Vibrating I told you I'm not allowed to argue unless you've paid!

Mr V: BEFORE I TELL YOU. ARGUE I CAN'T UNTIL YOU-PAY-ME!

Man I've just paid.

Man: BEFORE I PAY YOU.

Mr Vibrating No you didn't.

Mr V: NO. YOU NOT-DID (FINISH).

Man I did! I did! I did!

Man: ME DID (FINISH)! ME DID(FINISH)! ME DID(FINISH)!

(freaking out angry! stomping)

Mr Vibrating No you didn't.

Mr V: NO YOU NOT-DID(DO-FINISH).

Man Look I don't want to argue about that.

Man: LOOK. ARGUE ABOUT THIS ME NOT-WANT.

Mr Vibrating Well I'm very sorry but you didn't pay.

Mr V: WELL. ME VERY SORRY. BUT YOU NOT-PAY.

Man Aha! Well if I didn't pay, why are you arguing ... got you!

Man: (aha, pointing).

IF ME NOT-PAY. WHY YOU ARGUE?
CAUGHT YOU!

Mr Vibrating No you haven't.

Mr V: NO. YOU NOT-CAUGHT ME.

Man Yes I have ... if you're arguing I must have paid.

Man: YES. I DID.

IF YOU ARGUE. BEFORE ME-PAY-YOU MUST.

Mr Vibrating Not necessarily. I could be arguing in my spare time.

Mr V: NOT MUST. MAYBE ME ARGUE IN MY FREE TIME.

Man I've had enough of this.

(stands up furious)

Man: ME FINISHED! ME SICK O-F THIS! ME NOT-WANT MORE!

Mr Vibrating No you haven't.

Mr V: YES YOU WANT MORE.

Man Oh shut up! (he leaves and sees a door marked complaints; he goes in) I want to complain.

Man: (oh) SHUTUP!

end.