

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.

PLAY NAME "A-R-G-U-M-E-N-T (signed ARGUMENT) 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?
HELLO

Man: HELLO. ARGUMENT ME WANT BUY PLEASE.

Man I'd like to have an argument please.

Receptionist Certainly, sir. Have you been here before...?
SURE(true). BEFORE YOU COME HERE?

Man No, this is my first time.
NO. MY FIRST TIME NOW.

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

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

Man Well, what would be the cost?
COST WHAT?

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

ARGUMENT 5 MINUTES COST ONE DOLLAR. BUT ARGUMENT COURSE O-F TEN COST 8 DOLLARS.

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

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.

if scene below cut, then change to just "ROOM 12A".

TRY M-R B-A-R-N-A-R-D. ROOM 12.

Man Thank you.

THANK YOU.

#####3

maybe cut...

The man walks down a corridor. He opens door 12. There is a man at a desk.

Mr Barnard (shouting) What do you want?

WHAT YOU WANT???? (shouting).

Man Well I was told outside ...

Mr Barnard Don't give me that you snotty-faced heap of parrot droppings!

Man What!

Mr Barnard Shut your festering gob you tit! Your type makes me puke! You vacuous toffee-nosed malodorous pervert!

Man Look! I came here for an argument.

Mr Barnard (calmly) Oh! I'm sorry, this is abuse.

Man Oh I see, that explains it.

Mr Barnard No, you want room 12A next door.

Man I see - sorry. (exits)

Mr Barnard Not at all. (as he goes) Stupid git.

end maybe cut...

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(sign) NEW ROOM. 12-A.

(point to Hawke): HIS NAME M-R V-I-B-R-A-T-I-N-G (name sign)

HIS NAME SIGN (vibrate "V").

Outside 12A. The man opens the door.

Mr Vibrating (from within) Come in.

COME IN.

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

Man Is this the right room for an argument?
ROOM HERE RIGHT FOR ARGUMENT?

Mr Vibrating I've told you once.
ONCE I TOLD YOU.

Man No you haven't.
NO. YOU NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes I have.
YES. BEFORE I TOLD YOU.

Man When?
WHEN?

Mr Vibrating Just now!
NOW!

Man No you didn't.
NO YOU NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did!
YES. I DID (DO-FINISH)

Man Didn't.
NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Did.
DID (DO-FINISH)

Man Didn't.
NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating I'm telling you I did!
ME TELL YOU I DID (DO-FINISH)!

Man You did not!
YOU NOT DO!

Mr Vibrating I'm sorry, is this a five minute argument, or the full half hour?
ME SORRY. ARGUMENT 5 MINUTE THIS? O-R HALF-HOUR?

Man Oh ... Just a five-minute one.
(facial expression hesitate, think (for „oh“)),
(oh) 5 MINUTE ONLY.

Mr Vibrating Fine (makes a note of it; the man sits down) thank you. Anyway, I did.
FINE.
THANK YOU.
FINISH (disgustedly/irritated facial expression).
(pause).

TELL YOU I DID (DO-FINISH).

Man You most certainly did not.
ME CERTAIN YOU NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Now, let's get one thing quite clear. I most definitely told you!
NOW. WE MUST MAKE CLEAR ONE THING. TOLD YOU I CERTAIN I DID (DO-FINISH)!

Man You did not.
YOU NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did.
YES. I DID (DO-FINISH)

Man Didn't.
NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did.
YES. I DID (DO-FINISH).

Man Didn't.
NOT DO.

Mr Vibrating Yes I did!!
YES. I DID (DO-FINISH)!

Man Look, this isn't an argument.
STOP. ARGUMENT THIS NOT.

Mr Vibrating Yes it is.
YES. ARGUMENT.

Man No it isn't, it's just contradiction.
NO. NOT ARGUMENT. OPPOSITE(counter) ONLY YOU.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.
NO I NOT.

Man Yes it is.
YES. YOU.

Mr Vibrating It is not.
ME NOT.

Man It is. You just contradicted me.
YES. !NOW! YOU OPPOSITE ME.

Mr Vibrating No I didn't.
NO. ME NOT.

Man Ooh, you did!
(facial expression for ooh). YES YOU DID (DO-FINISH)!

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

Man You did, just then.
!NOW! YOU DID(DO-FINISH).

Mr Vibrating No, nonsense!
NO. SILLY.

Man Oh, look this is futile.
(facial frustration). WAIT (talk to hand). THIS ARGUMENT FRUSTRATING.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.
NO. NOT TRUE.

Man I came here for a good argument.
ARGUMENT !GOOD! ME COME HERE.

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

NO. !ARGUMENT! YOU COME HERE FOR.

Man Well, an argument's not the same as contradiction.
WELL(SO). ARGUMENT NOT-SAME-AS ONLY OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating It can be.
YES. ARGUMENT CAN.

Man No it can't. An argument is a connected series of statements to establish a definite proposition.
NO. CAN'T. ARGUMENT SERIES OF STATEMENTS CONNECTED FOR MAKE IDEA CLEAR.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.
NO. NOT TRUE.

Man Yes it is. It isn't just contradiction.
YES. TRUE. NOT-ONLY OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating Look, if I argue with you, I must take up a contrary position.
LOOK. IF ME ARGUE WITH YOU. OPPOSITE POSITION ME !MUST! TAKE-UP.

Man But it isn't just saying 'No it isn't'.
BUT. NOT ONLY TELL ME ONLY OPPOSITE.

Mr Vibrating Yes it is.
YES. OPPOSITE TELL YOU OK.

Man No it isn't, Argument is an intellectual process ... contradiction is just the automatic gainsaying of anything the other person says.
NO. NOT OK. ARGUMENT MEANS INTELLECT PROCESS.
ONLY OPPOSITE, MEANS YOU ONLY SAY NO, WHEN I SAY YES.

Mr Vibrating No it isn't.
NO.

Man Yes it is.
YES.

Mr Vibrating Not at all.
NOT TRUE.

Man Now look!
NOW LOOK!

Mr Vibrating (pressing the bell on his desk) That's it. Good morning.
STOP. WE FINISH. GOOD MORNING.

Man But I was just getting interested.
BUT INTERESTED I START BECOME.

Mr Vibrating Sorry the five minutes is up.
SORRY. 5 MINUTES FINISH.

Man That was never five minutes just now!
ARGUMENT TIME 5 MINUTES NOT-FINISH!

Mr Vibrating I'm afraid it was.
ME SORRY. ARGUMENT FINISH.

Man No it wasn't.
NO. NOT FINISH.

Mr Vibrating I'm sorry, I'm not allowed to argue any more.
ME SORRY. ARGUE MORE ME NOT-ALLOWED.

Man What!?
WHAT???!

Mr Vibrating If you want me to go on arguing you'll have to pay for another five minutes.
ARGUE MORE YOU WANT WITH ME. PAY AGAIN YOU 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.
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.
ME VERY SORRY.

Man Oh. all right. (pays) There you are.
(oh). OK. (pays money).

MONEY MORE I GIVE YOU.

Mr Vibrating Thank you.
THANK YOU.

Man Well?
WELL?
Mr Vibrating Well what?
WELL WHAT?

Man That was never five minutes just now.
ARGUMENT 5 MINUTES BEFORE. !NEVER!

Mr Vibrating I told you I'm not allowed to argue unless you've paid!
BEFORE I TELL YOU. ARGUE I CAN'T UNTIL YOU-PAY-ME!

Man I've just paid.
BEFORE I PAY YOU.

Mr Vibrating No you didn't.
NO. YOU NOT-DID (DO-FINISH).

Man I did! I did! I did!
ME DID! ME DID! ME DID!

Mr Vibrating No you didn't.
NO YOU NOT-DID(DO-FINISH).

Man Look I don't want to argue about that.
LOOK. ARGUE ABOUT THIS ME NOT WANT.

Mr Vibrating Well I'm very sorry but you didn't pay.
WELL. ME VERY SORRY. BUT YOU NOT-PAY.

Man Aha! Well if I didn't pay, why are you arguing ... got you!
(aha, pointing).
IF ME NOT-PAY. WHY YOU ARGUE?
CAUGHT YOU!

Mr Vibrating No you haven't.
NO. YOU NOT-CAUGHT ME.

Man Yes I have ... if you're arguing I must have paid.
YES. I DID.
IF YOU ARGUE. BEFORE ME PAY YOU MUST.

Mr Vibrating Not necessarily. I could be arguing in my spare time.
NOT MUST. MAYBE ME ARGUE IN MY FREE TIME.

Man I've had enough of this.
ME FINISHED. ME SICK OF THIS.
ME NOT-WANT MORE.

Mr Vibrating No you haven't.
YES YOU WANT MORE.

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

Man in charge You want to complain ... look at these shoes ... I've only had them three weeks
and the heels are worn right through.

Man No, I want to complain about ...

Man in charge If you complain nothing happens ... you might just as well not bother. My back hurts and ... (the man exits, walks down the corridor and enters a room)

Man I want to complain. ('Spreaders' who is just inside the door hits man on the head with a mallet) Ooh!

Spreaders No, no, no, hold your head like this, and then go 'waaagh!' Try it again. (he hits him again)

Man Waaghh!

Spreaders Better. Better. But 'waaaaaghh!' 'Waaaagh!' Hold your hands here ...

Man No!

Spreaders Now. (hits him)

Man Waagh!

Spreaders That's it. That's it. Good.

Man Stop hitting me!

Spreaders What?

Man Stop hitting me.

Spreaders Stop hitting you?

Man Yes.

Spreaders What did you come in here for then?

Man I came here to complain.

Spreaders Oh I'm sorry, that's next door. It's being hit on the head lessons in here.

Man What a stupid concept.

Detective Inspector Fox enters

Fox Right. Hold it there.

Man and Spreaders What?

Fox Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Inspector Fox of the Light Entertainment Police, Comedy Division, Special Flying Squad.

Man and Spreaders Flying Fox of the Yard.

Fox Shut up! (he hits the man with a truncheon)

Man Ooooh?

Spreaders No, no, no - Waagh!

Fox And you. (he hits Spreaders)

Spreaders Waagh!

Fox He's good! You could learn a thing or two from him. Right now you two me old beauties, you are nicked.

Man What for?

Fox I'm charging you under Section 21 of the Strange Sketch Act.

Man The what?

Fox You are hereby charged that you did wilfully take part in a strange sketch, that is, a skit, spoof or humorous vignette of an unconventional nature with intent to cause grievous mental confusion to the Great British Public. (to camera) Evening all.

Spreaders It's a fair cop.

Fox And you tosh. (hits the man)

Man WAAAGH!

Fox That's excellent! Right, come on down the Yard.

Another inspector arrives.

Inspector Hold it. Hold it. Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Inspector Thompson's Gazelle of the Programme Planning Police, Light Entertainment Division, Special Flying Squad.

Fox Flying Thompson's Gazelle of the Yard!

Inspector Shut up! (he hits him)

Fox Waaaagh!

Spreaders He's good.

Inspector Shut up! (hits Spreaders)

Spreaders WAAGH!

Man Rotten. (he gets hit) WAAAGH!

Inspector Good. Now I'm arrestin' this entire show on three counts: one, acts of self-conscious behaviour contrary to the 'Not in front of the children' Act, two, always saying 'It's so and so of the Yard' every time the fuzz arrives and, three, and this is the cruncher, offenses against the 'Getting out of sketches without using a proper punchline' Act, four, namely, simply ending every bleedin' sketch by just having a policeman come in and... wait a minute.

 Another policeman enters.

Policeman Hold it. (puts his hand on Inspector Thompson's Gazelle's shoulder)

Inspector It's a fair cop.

 A large hairy hand appears through the door and claps him on the shoulder.

CAPTION: 'THE END'

 Cut to BBC world symbol.