



Telephone conversations to help improve your listening skills.

# CRANK CALLS



CD tracks 14 to 17 - Mr Bean and British accents

Here are some more crank calls - those funny telephone calls that are designed to **wind people up**. Have fun listening to these two. (Answers on page 24.)

## Call I: The Museum

For this call, we called up a **natural history museum** with an unusual offer. Listen to the conversation and answer this question: What do we offer the museum?

- Victim: The Brentworth Natural History Museum. How may I help you?  
 Hot: Oh, hello.  
 Victim: Hello?  
 Hot: Yes, I was calling up **with regard to** some **stuffed animals**.  
 Victim: Yes?  
 Hot: Yes, I have a number of stuffed animals and **I was wondering whether** you'd be interested in **purchasing** a few.  
 Victim: Well, you'd have to speak with our **taxidermist**.  
 Hot: I have a number of interesting **specimens**.  
 Victim: What exactly do you have?  
 Hot: I have approximately 649 **stuffed cats**.  
 Victim: Cats? What kind of cats?  
 Hot: Ordinary cats.  
 Victim: Ordinary cats? Where did you get them?  
 Hot: I have acquired them over time. They come in all shapes and sizes. Lovely creatures, they are.  
 Victim: Erm, I think I'd better give you the number of...  
 Hot: So, how much then?  
 Victim: I really think...

## Call II: The Tree

For this call, we phoned the local council enquiring about the possible destruction of a tree. Listen to the conversation and answer this question:

Why does the man want to destroy the tree?

- Victim: Hello, Stumpford Council. How may I help you?  
 Hot: Oh, yes, hello. I am phoning in reference to a tree.  
 Victim: Yes?  
 Hot: Yes, there is a tree which is **obstructing the view** from my bedroom window.  
 Victim: Obstructing a view?  
 Hot: Yes, I am unable to see the house in front of mine.  
 Victim: Oh, well...  
 Hot: So, what are you going to do about it?  
 Victim: Erm, all **enquiries** related to trees are...  
 Hot: Well, then how do I **apply for permission** to destroy the said tree?  
 Victim: Well, it's not that easy. You'll have to come here and **fill in a form**.  
 Hot: Alternatively, I could just **cut it down** myself, couldn't I?  
 Victim: **I'm afraid** you can't... Hello, sir? Excuse me?  
 Hot: (*Sound of chainsaw.*) I beg your pardon? I can't hear anything.  
 Victim: Hello? Sir? Hello?

I'm a real cat.



The view is much better now.



## GLOSSARY

**to wind someone up** *exp*  
to irritate someone

**a natural history museum** *n*  
a museum that has exhibitions about plants, animals, dinosaurs, etc

**with regard to** *exp*  
about; concerning

**a stuffed animal** *n*  
a dead animal that has been filled with material so it can be exhibited

**I was wondering whether** *exp*  
I wanted to know if

**to purchase** *vb*  
to buy

**a taxidermist** *n*  
a person who stuffs dead animals (puts material in them so they can be exhibited)

**a specimen** *n*  
a single plant or animal which is an example of that species

**a stuffed cat** *n*  
a dead cat that has been filled with material in order to be exhibited

**to obstruct a view** *exp*  
to prevent you from seeing something out of your window

**an enquiry** *n*  
a question about something

**to apply for permission to do something** *exp*  
to ask officially if you can do something

**to fill in a form** *exp*  
to write information on a form and to complete it

**to cut something down** *exp*  
to use a saw (a metal tool with "teeth") to cut a tree so it falls

**I'm afraid** *exp*

I'm sorry but

**a chainsaw** *n*  
an electrical device for cutting trees