

How Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First" Can Turbo Charge Your Speech or Presentation In The Next 24 Hours!

By Peter J. Fogel

Why 24 hours? Well, I wanted to make the benefit pretty immediate and I wanted to pique your curiosity with that headline. If you're reading this lead-in—then it's served its purpose.

First read the entire sketch... and then I'll tell why and how one of the great comedy teams of all time can help your next speech(or presentation) make a lasting impression on your audience in the new millennium. (now you might have gotten this "bit" sent to you by a friend or colleague... but bear with me for a moment.)

Abbott: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

Costello: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den, and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

Abbott: Mac?

Costello: No, the name's Lou.

Abbott: Your computer.

Costello: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

Abbott: Mac?

Costello: I told you. My name is Lou.

Abbott: What about windows?

Costello: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

Abbott: Do you want a computer with Windows?

Costello: I don't know. What will I see when I look in the window?

Abbott: Wallpaper.

Costello: Never mind the Windows. I need a computer

and software.

Abbott: Software for Windows?

Costello: No! On the computer! I need something to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What have you got?

Abbott: Office.

Costello: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

Abbott: I just did.

Costello: You just did what?

Abbott; Recommend something.

Costello: You recommended something?

Abbott: Yes.

Costello: For my office?

Abbott: Yes.

Costello: O.K. What did you recommend for my office?

Abbott: Office.

Costello: Yes, for my office.

Abbott: I recommend office with windows.

Costello: I already have an office and it has windows! O.K., let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

Abbott: Word.

Costello: What word.

Abbott: Word in Office.

Costello: The only word in office is office.

Abbott: The Word in office for Windows.

Costello: Which word in office for windows?

Abbott: The Word you get when you click on the blue W.

Costello: I'm going to click your blue w if you don't start with some straight answers. O.K. forget that. Can I watch movies on the Internet?

Abbott: Yes, you want Real One.

Costello: Maybe a real one, maybe a cartoon. What I watch is none of your business. Just tell me what I need.

Abbott: Real One.

Costello: If it's a long movie I also want to see reel 2,3&4. Can I watch them?

Abbott: Of course.

Costello: Great. What with?

Abbott: Real One.

Costello: O.K., I'm at my computer and I want to watch a movie. What do I do?

Abbott: You click on the blue 1.

Costello: I click on the blue one what?

Abbott: The blue 1

Costello: Is that different than the blue W?

Abbott: The blue 1 is Real One and the blue W is Word.

Costello: What word?

Abbott: The Word in Office for Windows.

Costello: But there are three words in office for windows!

Abbott: No, just one, but its the most popular Word in the world.

Costello: It is?

Abbott: Yes, but to be fair, there aren't many other Words left. It pretty much wiped out all the other Words out there.

Costello: And that word is real one?

Abbott: Real One has nothing to do with Word. Real One isn't even Part of Office.

Costello: Stop! Don't start that again. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

Abbott: Money.

Costello: I need money to track my money?

Abbott: It comes bundled in your computer.

Costello: What comes bundled in my computer?

Abbott: Money.

Costello: Money comes with my computer?

Abbott: Yes, No extra charge.

Costello: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

Abbott: One copy.

Costello: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

Abbott: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

Costello: They can give you a license to copy money?

Abbott: Why not? They own it!

(Later)

Costello: How do I turn my computer off?

Abbott: Click on Start

NOW... If you're over 42 and a 1/2 then no doubt you grew up watching the movies of Abbott and Costello... (unless you're from a Third World Country)

Their "Who's On First" is a classic and is still funny today!

Let's say you are an IT person giving a speech to IT folks... if they are of age... (and even if they're younger) they will enjoy the take off on that classic bit.

This will help you bond with your audience... especially if they've gone through the "ritual" of helping newbies with their computers. If you can hire two actors who are good impressionists to deliver it... then expect a BIG IMPACT!

BUT If you do it yourself... with let's say, another It person...and you both happen to stumble... even funnier, because your audience will give you points for trying to pull it off. (and be thrilled that they're not up at the podium screwing up themselves.)

Either way you win.

This speech can be adapted to any industry you're in. Every business has their own "in-house" problems or quirks. Brain storm with someone who has some writing ability (or hire someone like myself) to help adapt it to your specific needs.

Make 'em laugh first... then deliver the point and content of your serious speech that you want to give immediately after! I've seen this routine done a few times this way and it's fail safe in its produced results.

Folks listening, laughing and learning. What could be better? I know a raise and a back rub from your boss! (or perhaps we can leave the back rub out.)

SHAMELESS PLUG!!!

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Keep Laughin'!!!!

Peter J. Fogel is a humorist/speaker and author of the book: "If Not Now Then When? Stories and Strategies of People Over 40 Who Have Successfully Reinvented Themselves!" If They Can Do It... So Can You!

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