

Simon: Hello, what's been confusing you this time?

Simon: I wrote down the punchline of a joke, assuming I'd remember the setup, I was wrong. Here it is: 'It was a yelled 'ah'...' Can you work out the setup? Because I can't, it's a joke lost forever it seems. It rhymes with Zelda but I don't remember the joke being about the character.

Simon: That's a shame, because there is little Zelda based humour out there...

Simon: Yes, you're right. Maybe I should just start again and make a joke about Zelda.

Simon: A gap in the market filled!

Simon: Ok, here goes: 'What fictional character do you get when a patient is in the presence of a deaf doctor? Yelled ah!' (Because a quiet ah wouldn't be heard). I'm probably not adding that to my list of jokes though, as it does need an explanation.

Simon: Have hearing problems caused you any misunderstandings?

Simon: Every now and then, but the real misunderstandings happen whilst eating and watching Youtube, as the nomming sounds can overpower the videos. Did you know crunching sounds are mini sonic booms? Because when food gets crushed by your teeth, it does so faster than the speed of sound? It doesn't mean I need a hearing aid...

Simon: Do you have any examples of mishearings?

Simon: Sure. The Youtuber said 'for you' and I misheard that as 'speed.'

Simon: Oh wow. You were so close!

Simon: Damn those mini sonic booms.

Simon: Any more?

Simon: Yep, I misheard 'homebrew' as 'banzai' and 'demanding' as 'friend'.

Simon: Does it get any more extreme than that??

Simon: I heard 'hello' as 'Czechoslovakia'.

Simon: How???

Simon: Ok, THAT one was a joke.

Simon: Oh. Good.

Simon: Even when I'm not eating I do mishear things, I heard 'oldest' as 'bolus' which is kinda close, but not in terms of meaning. It's ironic I heard 'bolus' when I

wasn't eating as the word means a 'soft mass of chewed food'.

Simon: And dare I ask for more?

Simon: I thought I heard someone say 'cave game'...

Simon: And what was really said?

Simon: Cave game! No mishearing there, but there is still confusion. What games do you play in a cave? Hide and seek? Sounds kinda fun I guess, but it has to be dangerous, doesn't it?

Simon: Maybe that's how cavemen died out!

Simon: What do you mean?

Simon: The cavemen kept playing hide and seek but they all got lost and died, whereas those playing hide and seek in houses were 100% safe, furthering evolution.

Simon: Oh, maybe...

Simon: And can I have one more mishearing?

Simon: Again when not eating, I heard 'cloak yourself' as 'poke yourself'. It's not the kind of thing you want to misunderstand as the latter sounds like a mild insult. As in 'You're too cold, you need to cloak yourself'. 'You want me to poke myself? (expletive) you.'

Simon: A relationship ruined with one silly misunderstanding.

Simon: Oh I know.

Simon: Is there anything you don't understand about people?

Simon: Yes, how do people go to sleep on trains and magically wake up when they get to their right stop?

Simon: No idea...

Simon: It's annoying, because I wanted to leave the guy there.

Simon: The power of the subconscious maybe?

Simon: Maybe. But it's the confidence the person had when going to sleep. It's as if he knew he'd wake up at the right time. Again, annoying.

Simon: Maybe it's a question for A.I.?

Simon: The explanation mentions subconscious hearing, you were right!

Simon: This is a little darker, but maybe you can ask A.I. how to stop people from waking up?

Simon: Yes! A great idea! My question 'How do you stop someone waking up?' makes it sound like I have a baby, but A.I. says to make sure the person doesn't drink alcohol or caffeine. Who gives vodka Redbull to babies? Whatever the case, the conversation on the train would be perceived as odd, but hey, desperate times call for desperate measures.

Simon: Awesome, and do you have any fictitious misunderstands in mind?

Simon: Yes, here's a dark conversation I made up: 'Hello, what's your name?' 'My name? It's Mel.' 'Ah, short for Melanie?' 'No, it's short for melanoma.' 'Oh. I'm so sorry.'

Simon: Who names their daughter after cancer??

Simon: It goes worse, the fictitious person is a man...

Simon: Wow, a man called Mel, who's named after a cancer.

Simon: He's very hateful.

Simon: A future character?

Simon: Yes, maybe.

Simon: What will he say?

Simon: Just stuff like 'argh', 'goddammit', etc.

Simon: Oh ok. Not one of your deeper characters...

Simon: He does have some depth to him, he's just troubled so it doesn't always come across that way.

Simon: And for the sake of variety, do you have any fun facts?

Simon: Yes, A.I. says the smell of surströmming is 'widely feared' which I found funny.

Simon: What, as in 'oh no, there's a spider! Argh! Oh no! What's behind the spider?? A tin of surströmming?? That's even worse! Arrrghhh!!!'

Simon: Something like that, yeah.

Simon: Have you smelt the food before?

Simon: Yep.

Simon: Smell nice?

Simon: Not really no. It's definitely something to fear...Well for many people, anyway.

Simon: What, like going to the dentist?

Simon: I'd say somewhere inbetween spiders and dentists. Then again, England doesn't have any dangerous spiders, so there's no reason to fear them. Again, somewhere in the middle.

Simon: Worse than bees?

Simon: I'm sure many people would rather smell a bee than the fish. Again, I wouldn't say I'm SCARED of the smell, but no one sane would ever eat the food. It's described as 'salty' and 'savoury', I'd describe it a hilarious prank to pull on someone. However, how would you get someone to eat something that smells of raw sewage?

Simon: You could the throw the fish in his mouth...

Simon: Yeah, sounds like a crime, though.

Simon: What crime would it be?

Simon: GBH?

Simon: Nooo, surely the smell and taste can't be that bad?

Simon: Common assault?

Simon: Maybe...

Simon: It can't be theft, can it?

Simon: No, it's the opposite of theft. Not the best gift in the world, but it is a gift in a way, I think.

Simon: It's not a traffic violation...

Simon: Definitely not.

Simon: Great! And on that clear note, bye?

Simon: Bye!