English at Work Episode 41: Doing it by the book Language for health and safety



Narrator: Welcome back to the offices of Tip Top Trading where Tom has taken a

tumble. He was trying to catch a mouse but tripped over. Can Anna help

soothe the pain? Let's find out.

Tom: Ooh... oww... ouch. My arm really hurts.

Paul: (Door opens) What's all this noise about?

Denise: (In a panic) It's Tom. He's had an accident – tripped over a mouse – I

mean tripped over trying to catch a mouse.

Paul: Golly gosh. Are you OK Tom?

Tom: I dunno. I think I've broken something.

Denise: Your pencil I think! Just sit there at my desk and I'll go and call a first-

aider.

Paul: Anna, you're going to have to fill in one of those Health and Safety reports.

Anna: Oh really? Do we have to?

It's procedure and it's the law - it's got to be done. Now Tom, would a Paul:

biscuit make you feel better?

Narrator: Health and Safety is important in the workplace. The office needs to be a

safe place to work in, but accidents do happen and that's when you have to

report it. Anna, do you know where to find the form you need to fill in?

Anna: (Typing on computer) I think so. It's here on the company intranet... here it

is, 'accident report form'.

Narrator: Yes, it's sometimes called an 'incident or accident report form'. It will ask

> you: How did the accident happen? What was the cause of the accident? Were there any injuries? And how could the accident have been avoided?

Anna: OK, I had better get started.

Denise: (putting phone down) Right, I've call the first-aider. She'll be here in ten

minutes. Now, do you need a hand with this form, Anna?

Anna: Yes please Denise. It wants to know how the accident happened.

Denise: Just say there was a mouse... no, a large rat... running about that needed

catching. And Tom, very bravely, tried to catch it

Anna: (*Typing*) Yes... and then he tripped over something.

Denise: Was it your ego Tom?

Tom: Err? Ha ha. Ouch! No, it was a sample box of Perfect Peaches.

Denise: So, the cause of the accident was a box of Perfect Peaches left on the floor.

Who left them there anyway?

Tom: That might have been me Denise.

Denise: What do I always say about putting things away? Now Anna, it says here

'Were there any injuries?'

Anna: So I'll write, 'Yes, a member of staff broke his arm.'

Denise: Sprained his arm. I think he'd be in more pain if it was broken, hey Tom?

Tom: What? Err, yeah. It still hurts though.

Denise: Hmm! Now finally it says 'What can be done to avoid this accident again?'

Anna: Get rid of the mice... I mean rats?

Denise. No. Store things away properly and keep the office tidy, eh Tom?

Tom: Yeah, I suppose so... but I was only trying to catch that mouse.

Denise: I know, very heroic. I'm starting to see what Anna sees in you, you know.

Tom: Oh no, Anna, our dinner date!

Narrator: So, it's been an eventful day in the office. Anna has done the proper thing

by completing an accident report form. If you have to report an accident at

work, here are some of the questions you might be asked:

How did the accident happen? What was the cause of the accident? Were there any injuries? And:

How could the accident have been avoided?

Narrator: So luckily for Anna she might get out of that date with Tom!

Anna: Hey Tom, don't look so glum. I'm up for dinner if you still are?

Tom: Ouch... really?

Anna: Sure Tom, and as you've only got one arm now, you won't be hugging me

all the time.

Denise: (snigger) You'll have to spoon feed him his food too!

Tom: Denise, could you go and call pest control please?

Narrator: Careful what you say Denise, or you may get injured too! So it looks Anna

and Tom's dinner date is on - I can't wait to be a fly-on-the-wall! See you

again soon. Bye!

Listening Challenge

In the accident, what did Tom trip over? (Answer: A box of Perfect Peaches)