



Ticket On The Train Conversation

Joe: So, uh, how's your day goin'?

woke up on the wrong side of the bed: to feel a little angry at the start of the day

Kristin: Oh, it could have started off better. Actually, I feel like I **woke up on the wrong side of the bed**.

Joe: Why, what happened?

running against the clock: to be late

Kristin: Well, things were going okay. I mean I'd gotten the e-mails done. I'd gotten all the dishes done. Took a shower. Got ready to go. Um, but as usual, I was **running against the clock**, trying to, uh, **get down** and **catch the train** on time.

get down: to go to

catch the train: to get on the train

Joe: Yeah.

pass: a ticket that allows you to ride the train

Kristin: So, I got on the train. I go in the back like I usually do because I have a **pass**. Sit down, we go one stop. We, we're actually coming up to 18th, y'know, just the next stop. And I see the, the **ticket checkers**, for lack of a better word...

ticket checkers: people who make sure that you paid to ride the train

Joe: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, I know who you're talkin' about.

Kristin: People who are always checking for passes...

Joe: Right.

Kristin: ...they're on and I thought, okay, great, yeah, I've, y'know, I've got my pass on me. So one of them comes up to me asking to see my pass. I start looking in my bag for the place that I always keep it, and it's not there.

Joe: Oh, are you serious?

racking my brain: thinking

Kristin: So, yeah! I'm looking, looking, thinking, oh where is it? Then suddenly...eh, y'know, and this is after, too, I start checking my pants and just **racking my brain** tryin' to think of where, where my pass could be. Then suddenly **it dawned on me** that I had left it in the pocket of a pair of pants that I'd worn two days before to work.

it dawned on me: I recalled; I remembered

Joe: Oh, and they were still at home, I'm sure.

whips her clipboard out: took her clipboard out

Kristin: Yes, they were still at home. So, I start explaining this to the woman. And, she, um, she **whips her clipboard out**. And I'm like, "Y'know, I just got on." And she's like, "Oh right here?" 'Coz, y'know, we'd just gotten to 18th Street. And I was like, "No, no, no, no, I, I, um, I got on just one stop back at 20th. But I always have my



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on me: with me

pass **on me** and that's why I got on the back. I've got money. I can go up and pay right now." And she's like, "Oh, just hold on a second." And she starts writing.

go out on a limb: to say something that seems unlikely

Joe: Let me guess. I'm gonna **go out on a limb** here and say that she still gave you the ticket.

citation: a ticket that means you have to pay money for doing something wrong

Kristin: Yes. I still got the **citation**. So, but, I thought that there still might be hope. So I keep trying to ask her questions, or... And letting her know I can go and pay. And she's like, "Just, **just hold on**, let me, let me focus on this and we'll talk in a minute when I get done writing." So then I start panicking, thinking, oh great, I am getting it, for sure. And I remember back to somebody telling me that they'd gotten one, a ticket once before on the train and, um, for not havin' their pass, and it ended up costing 'em like 250 **bucks**...

just hold on: wait

Joe: Well, I've gotten...

bucks: dollars

Kristin: And you know with the...

a pretty penny: a lot of money

Joe: ...one of those tickets before. And, and I mean, I recall it cost a **pretty penny**. But I don't remember it being that much.

Kristin: Well, eh, this is what I'm thinking it's gonna cost. And with the money that we're tryin' to save for our trip... I just, I almost started crying, thinkin' I can't afford this, y'know. So she finishes writing and hands it to me and it ends up being only 50 bucks.

cut down: to make smaller

Joe: Oh, they must have **cut down** the fine then, because I remember I paid more than that.

first offense: the first time you have been in trouble for something

Kristin: Yeah, she had circled 50 bucks. She's like "I'm assuming this is your **first offense**." And I was like "Yeah, it is." She's like "Okay, um, it'll be 50 bucks. Now I did write down here that you do, you claim you have a pass and you just left it in a pair of pants back in your apartment. So what you can do is go here. " And she's showing me all this on the ticket. "You can go here and **contest it**. So..."

contest it: fight it

Joe: Pffft. Yeah..yeah, go down there and contest it. That basically means you're gonna spend, y'know, most of a day sitting in the courtroom waiting for the case to get called. And then when it finally does get called, y'know, you gotta try and convince the judge that you actually had a ticket. I mean, it's a **total long shot**. I wouldn't, I mean...

total long shot: very unlikely



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Kristin: I know.

Joe: ...I don't even know, it's a waste of time.

Kristin: Yeah, I agree. I was talkin' to somebody here at work about it and they were like, y'know, if you do that you're gonna be sitting there for a few hours at least...

Joe: Yeah.

Kristin: ...and it's just **not worth it**.

not worth it: it is not important enough

Joe: No, I agree.

chip on my shoulder: to be angry

Kristin: Yeah, so, I'm tryin' not to have a **chip on my shoulder** about it. I don't wanna **badmouth** them. I know they're just doin' their job...

badmouth: to speak badly about

Joe: Pffft. Yeah, it's, it's...

Kristin: ...y'know...

water under the bridge: something that has happened and cannot be changed

Joe: ...yeah, I mean it's **water under the bridge** at this point, so, y'know, don't...

Kristin: It is.

Joe: ...get upset about it.

bottom line: the final thing

Kristin: Yeah, I. **Bottom line** is I'm gonna be havin' to pay 50 bucks, so...

Joe: Yeah, yeah, that sucks. I'm sure that was a great way to start the day, huh?

to top it off: in addition to

Kristin: Well, **to top it off** then, I also realized that the pair of pants that my pass, I left my pass in - the pocket that I left them in - I washed those pants last night.

Joe: [laugh] Oh, so the pass is probably shredded.

it's probably done: it's probably destroyed

Kristin: So, it's probably shredded, **it's probably done**, yep.

Joe: Oh, yeah.