

Stories for Lipreading



IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT DRUMMERS? by Gill Rogers.

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]

Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this autobiographical story, which is called 'Is it true what they say about drummers?' by Gill Rogers.

Is It True What They Say About Drummers? by Gill Rogers

Is it true what they say about drummers having no common sense?

I play in a brass band. We not only perform public concerts, but also often take part in competitions all around the West Country and beyond, sometimes successfully and sometimes not!

On this particular occasion, we were competing in a contest in Leicester. We always have a rehearsal on the day, and had booked a school hall not far from the competition venue to hold this final practice. Obviously, this meant unloading all our instruments and equipment from the coach, setting up, playing and then loading it all back on to the coach again to travel to the actual contest. What a pain!

So, we arrived at the school and practised for an hour. It went really, really well! Excitedly, we reloaded and continued our journey to the contest venue, feeling very optimistic about a good result, providing nobody mucked up on stage!

At the allotted time, we gathered together and mentally prepared ourselves to give it our all. Unbeknown to us though, our drummer had managed to lose the beater for his triangle between the rehearsal room and the contest venue. However, he was a resourceful man and had scabbled around and found a screwdriver that would do as a substitute.

In the piece we were playing there was, unusually, quite an important triangle part. We began our performance and it was all going swimmingly. The triangle part was coming up. The drummer was poised with his screwdriver, but instead of a lovely 'ting ting tinging' sound, there was just one quiet 'thud'. Unperturbed, we carried on and played magnificently. The judges agreed and placed us first! Marvellous! Another silver trophy for the cabinet!

I guess you are wondering what happened to the triangle part? Well, our clever drummer had indeed found a brilliant substitute metal beater in the guise of the screwdriver, but he had failed to test it out first. It was only at the crucial moment that he discovered it was magnetic and had stuck firmly to the triangle at the first touch! He has never lived it down, but we did have a jolly good laugh about it in the bar afterwards whilst celebrating with a beer or two.

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