

# Play On Words extract

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**Eddie** Sorry Fred. I really want to just get on with this crossword.

*Fred has finished picking up the items and neatens the desk. The bin now stands downstage of the desk; storage boxes stand in neat piles around with one under the desk; the desk holds a phone, computer, two tins, a pot of pencils and rubbers and some papers.*

**Eddie** I'm determined to finish this today. And I do *mean* determined! Determined? Yes, I *do* mean determined.

**Fred** [*Looking at his paper*] 'The Times', I'm impressed.

**Eddie** I tend to read 'The Guardian' but as far as the crossword is concerned it's -

**Fred** Behind 'The Times'?! [*He chuckles at his own joke*]

**Eddie** I'd say inconsistent.

**Fred** Never mind...

**Eddie** No. It's still a good paper.

**Fred** Let's have a look then.

*He takes the paper and circles Eddie who stands and follows. Crossing back, Fred takes the chair with him which he places behind the desk - completing the office layout.*

**Eddie** Two down - four letters. "Armchair isn't difficult".

**Fred** Oh. That's "easy".

**Eddie** Says you!

**Fred** No, Eddie, the *answer* is "easy".

**Eddie** I can't get it.

**Fred** Give it here!

*Angered, Fred grabs the pencil off him and writes in the answer. He dictates...*

**Fred** E-A-S-cock!

*The final expletive being because the pencil has broken.*

**Eddie** I'll let that one go.

**Fred** What is it with all the pencils in this place?! You don't get more than a few words out of them and they go!

**Eddie** [*Beat*] Oh! The *answer* is "easy"!

*Eddie strolls back across the room with the newspaper while Fred searches.*

Fred Oh where's my sharpener now?

Eddie Just one left.

*He reads and eats once more: off in his own world.*

Fred Eddie, have you seen my pencil sharpener?

Eddie Sure. What d'ya want it for?

Fred Are you kidding? It's a pencil sharpener. What could I conceivably want it for?

Eddie To sharpen a pencil?

Fred [*Frustrated pause*] Have you seen it?

Eddie I've already told you I have.

Fred Well, what did you do with it?!

Eddie Oh. [*Beat. Matter of fact.*] I sharpened a pencil.

Fred Where did you *put it*?!

Eddie I don't remember.

Fred *Oh for God's sake!* Look, did you use it today?

Eddie Today...? *To-day?* It was *a day*.

Fred So you didn't use it outside of time?

Eddie No I didn't.

Fred So where is it now?!

Eddie Where have you looked?

Fred Everywhere except where you've put it obviously.

Eddie Have you looked in the bin?

Fred [*A full stop. Fred composes himself*] Did you put my sharpener in the bin?

Eddie No.

Fred *Why* would you put my sharpener in the bin?

Eddie I didn't say I did. I just asked if you'd looked there.

Fred Why would you ask if I'd looked there if you didn't put it there?

Eddie I just thought you ought to look there.

Fred Why the hell would I look in the *bin* for a *sharpener*?!

Eddie You should check everywhere.

Fred I *have* checked everywhere!

Eddie You haven't checked in the bin.

Fred Did you put my sharpener in the bin?

Eddie No!

Fred Why would you put my sharpener in the bin?!

Eddie I didn't say I did. I just asked -

Fred Stop that! You're repeating yourself.

Eddie Sorry?

Fred You're repeating yourself.

Eddie Sorry.

Fred Stop that!

**Eddie** *You're repeating yourself.*  
**Fred** Sorry!  
**Eddie** You're - re-peat-ing - your-self!  
**Fred** Stop that!!