

The Thoughtful Gift

David and his wife went to the museum. There was an exhibition of impressionist paintings that David's wife was anxious to see. David loved those trips to the museum. He and his wife could spend hours staring at the pictures. Every time they looked they discovered something new about them. What else could you expect from an artist couple? They entered the museum early in the morning. **A moment/day later**, David had a thought. He would make a painting for their anniversary. That way, they could share their love for art at home. They could just look at David's paintings. How hard could it be anyway, to make a painting?

The Road Trip

Bill was on his way from Tampa to Tallahassee. He was going to spend a week at his son's house. He was a computer programmer. Besides, Bill wanted to go to the football game. He made sure he had some snacks and drinks handy in the car, as well as some Vivaldi tapes. These would make the driving a bit more entertaining. At four o'clock, Bill drove up the interstate. **A moment/day later**, he grunted in anger. He had forgotten to lock his condo. This was never a good idea in a city like Tampa. He decided to call his landlord and ask him to lock the apartment. Bill would hate to lose his expensive stereo.

Eve on the Beach

It was the last week of Eve's vacation at the coast. Eve was not looking forward to get back to work again. She hated her boring job. However, she was planning to enjoy every second at the beach. It was already very hot when she drove to the beach. But it was still very quiet at the beach. As Eve was walking on the white sand, she looked around for a nice spot. **A moment/day later**, Eve spotted a friend. She yelled and waved, and the friend came up to her. He told Eve that he now owned a successful software company. He asked Eve if she would want to work for him. Of course, Eve jumped at the offer.

Grandfather's Visit

Frank was visiting his grandson in Colorado. They would go trout fishing on the first day. Frank was planning to do some hiking the rest of the time. They got up really early and hiked to an ideal fishing spot that his grandfather had discovered. When they arrived at the spot, it was already hot. However, the water was very cool. They stepped into the water and started fishing. **A moment/day later**, Frank felt nauseous. He was not yet used to the altitude; he was born and raised in Florida. However, after a few days, Frank got adjusted. He had a great time in Colorado.

The Ski Instructor

Kay was a ski instructor in Wyoming. Kay always spent the first two hours on an easy slope, which was near the ground station. She always taught a beginners' class. Kay preferred

beginners' classes, because beginners improve so much over the course of a few lessons. This week, Kay had a small class, only eight people. Kay watched as her students made their curves. **A moment/day later**, she heard a loud noise. An avalanche was thundering down a slope. It barely missed the town and the ski slopes. Later on, they found out that the avalanche had been caused by some reckless tourists.

Dealing with the Elements

Irene had taken up photographing as her new hobby. She had always felt an artistic drive, but had never been able to express it. Photographing might just be the thing. Today, she was out in the countryside. She wanted to spend the afternoon taking pictures. There were some wild flowers that would make good subjects. Irene mounted her lens. She went looking for the flowers. **A moment/day later**, it started to rain. The rain came pouring down. It seemed to rain all the time in Seattle. Irene was born in Phoenix, Arizona and at moments like these, she missed the desert heat.

The Novelist

James was an established novelist. However, lately, he had been experiencing a writer's block. He had not written a page in weeks. He decided to change his approach. From now on, he would systematically write one page a day. James got up very early. After drinking two cups of coffee, he entered his study. James turned on his PC and started typing. **A moment/day later**, the telephone rang. It was James' friend Warren. Warren invited James to a game of golf. James quickly agreed. He jumped at every opportunity to finally beat his friend.

The Life of a Lawyer

Chris was a lawyer in Memphis. He had opened a practice there after his move from Seattle. He already had quite a few clients. This morning, Chris had a busy schedule. He had to finish some work before he would fly to Cincinnati to meet a client. His plane would leave tonight. Chris started opening the mail. **A moment/day later**, Chris felt a headache. This was a sign that he had been working too hard. Chris decided to work more efficiently, so that he could find more time to relax. He would take up playing racquetball again.

A Trip to Italy

Joe was on his way from the United States to Italy. His ancestors came from Sicily, and he had always wanted to find his roots. The plane had just reached a cruising altitude. Another six hours, and Joe would be in Italy. The flight attendants were serving drinks and snacks. Joe did not want to start drinking coffee right away. Therefore, he just had some orange juice. **A moment/day later**, Joe heard some great news. Somebody said that the pope was going to

visit Sicily. Being a true Catholic, it was Joe's ideal to see the pope. Joe decided to take as many pictures as possible. Oh, how his relatives would envy him!

Irish Bartender

Sean was a bartender in an Irish pub in Chicago. Recently, he had immigrated from Ireland. He liked working in the States. And because there were a lot of Irish customers, the pub felt very much like home. Tonight was Sean's 10th night on the job. It was only eight o'clock and the bar was already packed. A Bulls game had started on the big TV screen. **A moment/day later**, a big fight broke out. This happened very often in the pub. However, Sean didn't mind it at all; it reminded him of home. And besides, fights usually ended peacefully in the bar. Typically, people would order more beer to celebrate the peace.

The Bank Teller

Sandra worked as a bank teller. She had just returned from a vacation. She had made a trip to Orlando. She was still very excited about the trip. She thought about the trip the whole time, while performing her daily routine at the bank. Sandra counted the money, starting with the large bills. She put the money away and opened up her booth. **A moment/day later**, a gunshot sounded. Three masked persons entered the bank. Fortunately, the bank was monitored by cameras. A few weeks later, the police managed to recover the money. However, the bank personnel remained on edge for some time.

The Magazine Column

Tom was feeling a bit depressed today. He had promised a friend to write a column for a senior magazine, which was due next week. He had absolutely no idea what to write about. He took his granddaughter out to see Jurassic Park. They had heard that the dinosaurs were very life-like. At seven o'clock, the movie started. **A moment/day later**, Tom got an idea. He would write a column on bonding with grandchildren. He went to the library, and borrowed some books on intergenerational relationships. There was so much information, that the column practically wrote itself.

Psych Major Mike

Mike was taking an undergraduate course in statistics. He had always hated numbers. But, being a psychology major, he had to take stats. Today was the first day of the new semester. Mike would be exposed to his first two hours of statistics. Fellow students had told him that stats wasn't too hard. The thing was not to be intimidated by all those numbers. As the teacher started talking, Mike made notes. **A moment/day later**, Mike began to feel sick. It was probably the chicken he had had for lunch. Mike decided to avoid eating chicken from now on. He had always wanted to be a vegetarian, and perhaps this was a good start.

Musician at Heart

Amy wanted to be a professional violinist. Every day, when she came home from school, she would practice for a couple of hours. Her mother warned her not to overdo it. But Amy was very determined. You had to work real hard to be a musician. She had had a busy day at school. But when she came home, she picked up her violin and started practicing. **A moment/day later**, the doorbell sounded. It was one of Amy's friends, who invited Amy to her birthday party. Amy said she didn't have time for fun. But she quickly changed her mind when her classmate said that she wanted Amy to play the violin at her party.