

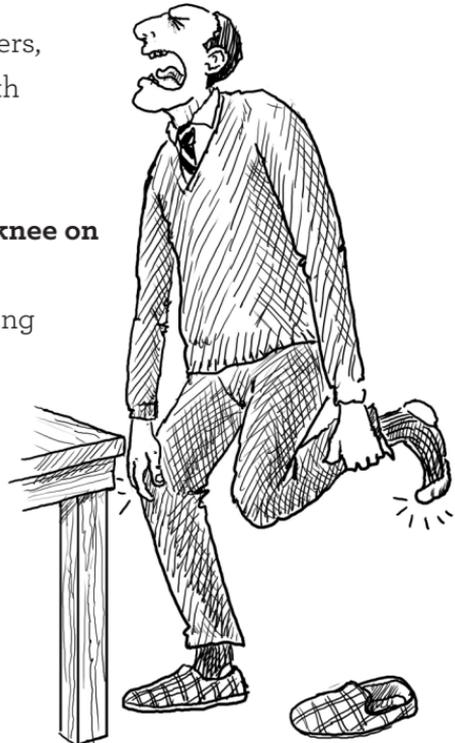
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ACCIDENTS

- 1. While you are taking a shower your partner turns on the kitchen tap downstairs, causing you to be soaked in a sudden blast of ice cold water. Do you?**
 - a) Say nothing.
 - b) Mention it once in a jokingly accusatory tone and then forget about it.
 - c) Bring up the traumatic incident for decades afterwards whenever the subject of conversation turns to showers, water, the cold, or near-death experiences.

- 2. You accidentally bang your knee on the leg of a table. Do you?**
 - a) Curse yourself for not looking where you were going.
 - b) Curse the table leg for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
 - c) Angrily kick the table leg, thereby injuring your toe.



3. You accidentally drop a coin down the tiny gap in the back of the sofa. Do you?

- a) Leave it there because, in the great scheme of things, it's not a whole lot of money.
- b) Thrust your arm down into the gap as far as it will go, running the very real risk that your arm will become stuck and that you and the sofa will have to make an embarrassing trip to hospital in the back of an ambulance.
- c) Call on your neighbours and ask them to help you lift and tip the sofa upside down in the hope that the coin will fall out.
- d) Go to the shed, fetch a saw and proceed to hack the sofa into pieces, justifying your actions by saying: 'It's time we had a new sofa.'

4. Have you ever looked for someone else to blame after accidentally biting your own tongue while eating?

5. You get a small splinter in your finger. Do you?

- a) Try to extricate it yourself without making a fuss.
- b) Proffer the wounded digit to your partner with a pitiful, pleading expression in a manner reminiscent of Androcles and the lion.
- c) Call the emergency services, demanding that they come straight away and saying they may need to amputate.

ACCIDENTS

- 6. Your partner accidentally cuts her finger while she is a passenger in your brand-new car. Do you say?**
- a) 'Don't worry, darling. I'll pull over and fetch a plaster from the medical kit.'
 - b) 'Don't bleed on the seats! Don't bleed on the seats!'
- 7. If you drop something on the floor and fail in your first two attempts to pick it up, do you then make an angry lunge at it as if it was somehow the object's fault?**
- 8. You fall over in the street after tripping on something and are instantly surrounded by half a dozen concerned passers-by. Your pride is more hurt than your body. Picking yourself up, do you say?**
- a) 'I'm okay, thanks. Don't let me hold you up.'
 - b) 'What are you lot staring at? Haven't you got homes to go to?'
- 9. Wearing only a pair of socks, you accidentally tread on a piece of your grandson's Lego. Do you?**
- a) Laugh it off and put the Lego brick back in its box.
 - b) Issue your grandson with a list of health and safety instructions.
 - c) Hobble around for the rest of the day, declaring to anyone who is listening that you could now be crippled for life.

10. Your partner inadvertently leaves a tissue in the pocket of a skirt that then goes in the washing machine and splatters your favourite dark shirt with tiny specks of white paper. On a scale of disasters, does this incident rank as more serious than . . . ?

- a) The time *you* spilled red wine over *her* new dress.
- b) Chernobyl.

11. Which of these is the most unlikely to happen?

- a) You will be abducted by aliens while waiting in line at the Post Office.
- b) You will be struck by a meteorite while sitting out in the garden.
- c) You will be trampled underfoot by a herd of passing wildebeest while cleaning your car.
- d) You will spontaneously combust.
- e) Your insurance company will pay up on your accident cover without any quibble.