

## JAMES

James was a bank teller who liked to write novels as a hobby. However, he had been experiencing writer's block lately. He had not written a page in weeks. Therefore, he decided to change his approach.

Probe: sofa (filler)

From now on, he would systematically write one page every day. The next 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 later, the telephone rang./A day later, the telephone rang.

Probe: typing (no shift/shift)

It was James' friend, Warren. Warren invited James to watch a game of baseball at his house. James quickly agreed. He jumped at every opportunity to hang out with his friend. He felt that he deserved a break. They installed themselves on the couch. The chips and beer were within reach. Warren remembered to return James' Visa card before the first pitch./James remembered to return Warren's Visa card before the first pitch. They started watching the game. A moment later, James heard a loud bang./A day later, James heard a loud bang.

Probe: visa (maintenance/removal/neutral)

It was an enormous thunderclap. It was the time of year when storms were common. James actually liked the occasional thunderstorm. He hoped only that the streets wouldn't flood again.

Probe: Hollywood (filler)

After the weekend, James went back to work at the bank. He spent a lot of time there thinking about his recent trip to Hawaii. He was still very excited about the unforgettable trip. He thought about Hawaii the whole time, while performing his daily routine at the bank. James enjoyed every second he had spent at the beach.

Probe: canvas (filler)

One day, he began tanning at a really nice spot. A moment later, James spotted a friend walking along./A day later, James spotted a friend walking along.

Probe: tanning (no shift/Shift)

He yelled and waved, and the friend came up to him. She told James that she now owned a successful software company. She asked him if he would want to work for her. Of course, James turned down the offer.

Probe: hammer (filler)

He would have had to move across the country for the job. That was a great memory, but now he needed to get back to work. Things at the bank were hectic, what with the new vault being installed. James got the new vault key from his supervisor./James returned the old vault key to his supervisor. A day later, a gunshot sounded./A moment later, a gunshot sounded.

Probe: key (maintenance/removal/neutral)

Three masked persons had entered the bank. Fortunately, the tellers ducked down, and no one was injured. A few weeks later, the police even managed to recover the money.

Probe: evolution (filler)

However, the bank personnel remained on edge for some time. Therefore, James took some time off to get his wits together. One day, James was doing some laundry at the Bizzy Bee Laundromat. While he was there, he put the moves on a sweet-looking girl. He put her phone number in his wallet. She put his phone number in her purse. A day later, he heard a strange sound./A moment later, he heard a strange sound.

Probe: phone number (maintenance/removal/neutral)

He looked out the window. He saw a marching band coming down the street.

## **CRUISE**

Jill and Ken were on their way from Fargo to Miami. In Miami, they would depart on a boat cruise. They had just gotten married the day before. So they were now on their honeymoon.

Probe: Utah (filler)

The train had just left the station. In only three days, they would be in Miami. The train attendants were serving drinks and snacks. Jill did not want to drink coffee right away. She was drinking some orange juice instead. A moment later, Jill heard some great news./A day later, Jill heard some great news.

Probe: drinking (no shift/shift)

Somebody said that the Pope was going to visit Fargo next year. Being a devout Catholic, Jill's dream was to see the Pope. After arriving in Miami, Jill and Ken took a taxi from the train station to the cruise ship.

Probe: lamp (filler)

In the taxi, they felt that they needed to freshen up and rest. Jill asked the taxi driver how much longer they had to go. The driver said that he would get there as fast as he could. In honor of the Pope's upcoming visit to the U.S., the driver gave them a small Bible./In honor of the Pope's upcoming visit, Jill gave the driver a small Bible. A day later, Jill asked Ken if he had remembered the sun tan lotion./A moment later, Jill asked Ken if he had remembered the sun tan lotion.

Probe: bible (maintenance/removal/neutral)

On the ship, they were pleased with their room. It had a nice view. They could not decide whether to eat or to go to the pool. They chose to go to the pool first. They were having a good time. Today Jill wanted to improve her tan. Before going out, her husband Ken gave her the bottle of seasickness pills./Before going out, she gave her husband Ken the bottle of seasickness pills. A day later, a voice sounded over the loud speaker./A moment later, a voice sounded over the loud speaker.

Probe: pills (maintenance/removal/neutral)

A child of one of the guests had fallen overboard. Everybody was instructed to look for the young boy. Soon the boy was found and brought aboard the ship. Fortunately the boy could swim, and he managed to get to the life-preserver by himself. That evening, Jill and Ken were ready to relax.

Probe: pillow (filler)

Ken was looking forward to a seafood dinner. The chef on their cruise ship was especially good at cooking lobster. Ken was really enjoying his meal. He remarked to Jill that the lobster was delicious.

Probe: pencil (filler)

Just before dessert, Ken gave Jill a honeymoon gift. He put his new watch on and smiled./She put her new watch on and smiled. A day later, Ken heard the captain laughing./A moment later, Ken heard the captain laughing.

Probe: watch (maintenance/removal/neutral)

Ken thought that the captain was laughing at him. He suddenly despised the captain. Jill dragged Ken to the ship's casino. She loved to go to casinos. She was especially fond of the slot machines.

Probe: exam (filler)

She changed all of their wedding gift money into quarters. And they headed to the slot machines. Jill began gambling at one of the slot machines. A moment later, a sudden noise startled her./A day later, a sudden noise startled her.

Probe: gambling (no shift/shift)

The fire alarm had gone off. Everybody had to go out to the deck.

## **MIKE**

Mike was to take 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 trick was not to be intimidated by all those numbers. Sitting at his desk, Mike put his class schedule in his backpack./Sitting at his desk, Mike's class schedule fell out of his backpack. A day later, Mike began to feel sick./A moment later, Mike began to feel sick.

Probe: notes (maintenance/removal/neutral)

It was probably the chicken he had eaten for lunch. Mike decided to avoid eating chicken. He had always wanted to be a vegetarian, and perhaps this was a good way to start. What Mike really wanted was to be a professional violinist.

Probe: London (filler)

Every day after classes, he would practice for a couple of hours. He was very determined. You had to work really hard to be a musician. One day when he arrived home, he picked up his violin and started practicing. The song he was working on was very difficult.

Probe: radio (filler)

He remembered the advice that his instructor had given him./He forgot the advice that his instructor had given him. A day later, the doorbell sounded./ A moment later, the doorbell sounded.

Probe: advice (maintenance/removal/neutral)

It was one of his friends, who invited him to a football game. Mike and Howard were soon at the football stadium. They were there to watch the Buckeyes play the Spartans. Mike wanted the Buckeyes to win. Howard, being from Michigan, wanted the Spartans to win.

Probe: airplane (filler)

They decided to have a good time no matter the outcome of the game. The stadium was filling up with fans. The moment the game started, all the fans were roaring. Mike began cheering with all of his heart. A moment later, Mike looked behind him./A day later, Mike looked behind him.

Probe: cheering (no shift/shift)

A girl had fallen down. Her nose was bleeding, but otherwise she was okay. She was embarrassed mainly about the commotion. Mike walked her to the university health clinic. He needed to go there anyway. He was still feeling sick from that chicken he had eaten. He talked to the girl for a little while as they walked. When they entered the clinic, they saw that it was not busy. Mike put the pen in his pocket after filling out the medical forms./Mike put the pen back

on the counter after filling out the medical forms. A day later, Mike asked the girl out on a date./  
A moment later, Mike asked the girl out on a date.

Probe: pen (maintenance/removal/neutral)

It took a couple of minutes of pleading before she agreed. She gave him directions to her gym, which he wrote down. She told him that they could meet there later that week. Mike was thrilled. A few days later, Mike found a crumpled piece of paper in his coat pocket.

Probe: runway (filler)

He smoothed it out to see what it was. It was the directions that the girl had given him. And the directions reminded him of his date! A moment later, he left for the gym./A day later, he left for the gym.

Probe reminded (no shift/shift)

He was so looking forward to seeing that girl. She herself had an athletic build, and she told Mike that she liked muscular men. Mike arrived at the gym.

Probe: briefcase (filler)

He spotted the girl inside. She introduced Mike to her muscular boyfriend, Biff.

## **ARTSY WOMAN**

Irene had taken up photography as her new hobby. Though she had always felt an artistic drive, she had never been able to express it. Photography might be just the thing for her.

Probe: coffee (filler)

On this day, she was going out to the countryside. She wanted to spend the afternoon taking pictures. She had heard of some wild flowers that would make good subjects. Before leaving, she picked up her old lens from the repair shop./Before leaving, she dropped off her old lens at the repair shop. A day later, it began to rain./A moment later, it began to rain.

Probe: lens (maintenance/removal/neutral)

The rain soon came pouring down.

Probe: wallet (filler)

It seemed to rain all the time in Seattle. A rainy day was the perfect day to visit Maurice's new art gallery. He had invited everybody in town who was important in the arts. It seemed like the opening would be a big success. At seven o'clock, the first guests arrived.

Probe: Dallas (filler)

Irene began to speak with Maurice as soon as she entered the gallery. Maurice gave Irene a bouquet of flowers as a gift for coming./Irene gave Maurice a bouquet of flowers as a gift for the opening. A day later, she suddenly turned very pale./A moment later, she suddenly turned very pale.

Probe: Bouquet (maintenance/removal/neutral)

She had completely forgotten about her mother's birthday. At the gallery, there had been some impressionist paintings. She had spent a long time staring at those pictures.

Probe: socks (filler)

Every time she looked, she discovered something new about them. Suddenly, Irene had an idea. She would make a painting as a gift for her mother. How hard could it be to paint?

Probe: porch (filler)

Irene was pleased with her idea. She was writing down a list of painting supplies. A moment later, Irene left to photograph her friend in a local play./A day later, Irene left to photograph her friend in a local play.

Probe: writing (no shift/shift)

She went to the community theater, where they were performing Hamlet. Her friend, Teresa, was starring as Ophelia. Irene felt light-headed when she arrived at the theater. The play started, and she was excited when her friend walked on stage. She nervously began to take pictures. By intermission, she had run out of film. On the way home, she entered a camera shop. She bought a few rolls and tucked them into her purse./She dropped off a few rolls that she was carrying in her purse. A day later, Irene collapsed./A moment later, Irene collapsed.

Probe: rolls (maintenance/removal/neutral)

She was rushed to the hospital. The doctor told her to take it easy for a while. For a few days, Irene stayed in bed and relaxed. She didn't take a shower during this time. Her last wash was an embarrassing sponge bath at the hospital. Irene turned on the water in the shower. She felt really good while showering after so many days. A moment later, there was a knock at the door./A day later, there was a knock at the door.

Probe: showering (no shift/shift)

It was a Jehovah's Witness, handing out religious literature.

## **OLD PEOPLE**

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. But he had absolutely no idea what to write about. He took his granddaughter out to see Jurassic Park at the theater. They had heard that the dinosaurs were very life-like. At seven o'clock, the movie began to play. They leaned back and were watching the movie. A moment later, Tom got an idea. A day later, Tom got an idea.

Probe: watching (no shift/shift)

He would write a column about 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. After finishing his column, Tom had to leave to go to his volunteer job. This job was at a local hospital.

Probe: bathroom (filler)

His duty was to sit and direct visitors to the patients' rooms. He often handed out health literature as well. Today was a particularly busy day at the hospital. Tom was sitting at his desk, organizing the new information pamphlets./Tom was sitting at his desk, distributing the new information pamphlets. A day later, the volunteer coordinator approached Tom./A moment later, the volunteer coordinator approached Tom.

Probe: pamphlets (maintenance/removal/neutral)

She wanted to talk to him for a minute. She told Tom that he looked stressed. She suggested that he take some time off.

Probe: Michelle (filler)

Tom took the hint. He decided to go on a trip to visit some of his family. Tom would drive from Tampa to Chicago. He was going to spend some time at his son's house. Perhaps they would get to go to a Bears game. He made sure to have some snacks and drinks in the car, as well as some

Vivaldi tapes. These would make the driving a bit more bearable. At four o'clock, Tom began driving up the interstate.

Probe: Alabama (filler)

After driving for a while, Tom stopped to pick up his supper at a drive-through window. He paid for his hamburger, received a hand-full of change and drove away. He paid for his hamburger with a hand-full of change and drove away. A day later, he grunted in anger./A moment later, he grunted in anger.

Probe: change (maintenance/removal/neutral)

He had forgotten to lock his condo in Miami. Two weeks later, Tom was off visiting his daughter in Colorado. They would go trout fishing on the first day. Tom was planning to do some hiking the rest of the time. They got up really early and hiked to an ideal fishing spot. 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 later, Tom felt nauseated./A day later, Tom felt nauseated.

Probe: fishing (no shift/shift)

He was not yet used to the altitude because he had lived so long in Florida. However, after a few days, Tom adjusted perfectly. He had a great time in Colorado. A couple of months later, it was almost Christmas, and Tom had not yet finished his shopping.

Probe: roommate (filler)

He had to buy presents for five more people. He would have to spend days at the crowded mall. One present was going to be for his good-for-nothing brother. He decided to get him something in commemoration of their first trip to Austria. He had already checked several stores without any luck. Tom finally found the Austrian pipe that he, himself, had wanted for some time.

Probe: basement (filler)

He considered buying it for himself, but then remembered the spirit of giving. Tom wanted to remain in contact with the shopkeeper for future reference. The shopkeeper gave Tom his business card, and Tom made the purchase./Tom gave the shopkeeper his business card, and he made the purchase. A day later, he skidded across the mall floor./A moment later, he skidded across the mall floor.

Probe: card (maintenance/removal/neutral)

The floor had just been mopped and was very slippery. Tom fell and broke his hip.

## **OUTDOORS**

Kelly was a ski instructor in Wyoming. Kelly and her students always spent the first two hours on an easy slope. She usually taught a beginners' class. Kelly preferred beginners' classes because they improve so quickly.

Probe: Prague (filler)

This week, Kelly had a small class of only eight people. Kelly watched as her new students curved left and right. A moment later, she heard a loud noise./A day later, she heard a loud noise.

Probe: curved (no shift/shift)

An avalanche was thundering down a slope. It barely missed the town and the ski slopes. Kelly decided to ski somewhere flatter. She went to ski cross-country from the lake to the cabin. When she started the trail, she had lots of energy. But now she was getting tired.

Probe: hotel (filler)

Worse yet, she was getting hungry. She ate half of a candy bar that she had with her. Kelly put the other half of the candy bar in her coat pocket./Kelly then ate the other half of the candy bar from her coat pocket. A day later, she was watching the sunset./A moment later, she was watching the sunset.

Probe: candy bar (maintenance/removal/neutral)

The sky was all purple and red. Kelly saw a family skiing a ways off from her. They were moving along at a slow pace. Some of the kids looked like they were skiing for the first time. Kelly struck up a friendship with the eight-year-old girl. The little girl gave Kelly a friendship bracelet./Kelly gave the little girl a friendship bracelet. A day later, Kelly heard a loud scream./A moment later, Kelly heard a loud scream.

Probe: bracelet (maintenance/removal/neutral)

Someone saw a bear come out of the woods. Kelly pulled out the revolver that she kept with her. She shot it into the air. The noise from the gun scared the bear away. Kelly went to see if the person was all right. When she found him, she saw that the bear had gotten to him. His leg looked pretty bad. Kelly was calling for assistance on her cell phone. A moment later, Kelly began to feel ill./A day later, Kelly began to feel ill.

Probe: calling (no shift/shift)

All the excitement and cold weather was taking its toll. Kelly checked herself into the doctor's clinic a few hours later. She waited forever to see someone.

Probe: key (filler)

She worried that she would vomit while she was waiting. Finally, a nurse led her to an examination room. The doctor came in fifteen minutes later. She couldn't believe it. The doctor was her old friend from high school.

Probe: sunglasses (filler)

She hadn't seen him since he was busted by the cops. He was once caught selling illegal prescriptions at a party. Kelly guessed that the charges never stuck. Kelly then felt even more uneasy. The doctor handed Kelly new insurance papers./Kelly handed the doctor her new insurance papers. A day later, Kelly was at the pharmacy./A moment later, Kelly was at the pharmacy.

Probe: insurance (maintenance/removal/neutral)

She was picking up her medication. Kelly realized that she needed a calmer life.

Probe: window (filler)

## **LAWYER**

Chris was a lawyer in Chicago.

Probe: brushes (filler)

He had opened a practice there after his move from Portland. He already had quite a few clients. This morning, Chris had a busy schedule. He opened the mail, began to read, then put it in his briefcase./He opened the mail, began to read, then threw it into the trash. A day later, Chris felt a headache coming on./A moment later, Chris felt a headache coming on.

Probe: mail (maintenance/removal/neutral)

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 wanted to hang out at his favorite pub more often. There, he could relax and watch the Bulls games on a big screen T.V. Tonight was the first game

of the playoffs. It was only eight o'clock, and Chris found that the pub was already packed. The Bulls game had started on the big screen T.V. The following night, a big fight broke out. The aggressor fled the scene, leaving two men badly injured. Chris had seen everything. The cop on the scene gave Chris his card, in case he remembered further details./Chris gave the cop on the scene his card, in case he wanted further details. A day later, Chris was paged to the courthouse, but for another reason./A moment later, Chris was paged to the courthouse, but for another reason.

Probe: card (maintenance/removal/neutral)

His client had been arrested for possession of illegal drugs. This man had also kidnapped a child and held her hostage. Even after the stand-off had ended, the poor child had remained in shock.

Probe: bracelet (filler)

Chris walked into the courtroom and set his briefcase down. The monotonous voice of the judge almost put him to sleep. After the judge spoke, Chris called his client to testify. The man was fine while Chris questioned him. However, he fell apart when the prosecutor began asking questions. Chris had a bad feeling that his client was going to jail.

Probe: picture (filler)

The case ended in the afternoon, and Chris decided to go home. He looked at his watch and panicked. At 4 o'clock he was supposed to meet an old, faithful client, and it was already 10 to 4. Worse yet, traffic was extremely bad. When Chris arrived at the office, there was a courier waiting in place of his old client. Chris accepted a file that he had needed to complete the client's case./Chris handed him a file that needed to be completed for the client's case. A day later, Chris was staring out into the street./A moment later, Chris was staring out into the street.

Probe: file (maintenance/removal/neutral)

A traffic accident had occurred out front. A truck had spilled white paint all over the road.

Probe: Seattle (filler)

Chris was remembering that he was going to paint his fence. A moment later, Chris went to buy some white paint./A day later, Chris went to buy some white paint.

Probe: remembering (no shift/shift)

For some reason, there weren't many cans of white paint at the local hardware store. After stopping at a few more stores, he had finally collected enough.

Probe: necklace (filler)

This project should only take a couple of hours, but it was getting late. Chris got his brush and started painting. A moment later, his wife Joan called him./A day later, his wife Joan called him.

Probe: painting (no shift/shift)

She had just received a phone call from their son-in-law. He told Joan that their grandchild had been born. It was a girl named Jacqueline, after her grandmother. Chris and Joan were overwhelmed with joy.

## **SUBURBIA**

Brandon went roller-blading after swimming at the pool. He was glad to have his roller blades on. A computer system was supposed to be delivered that afternoon. It was the most sophisticated system he had ever seen. But Brandon had lost track of the time.

Probe: desk (filler)

Now he had to make up for it and get home. He hoped that he had not missed the delivery man. He took a short cut down an alley to save some time. When he got to his condo, he saw the delivery truck. Brandon was soon inside his condo with his new computer./Brandon was soon inside his new condo, but he had missed his new computer. The next day, the telephone rang./A moment later, the telephone rang.

Probe: computer (maintenance/removal/neutral)

It was his ex-wife, calling to remind him that it was their daughter's birthday. His daughter, Miranda, was turning two today. Brandon did not want to miss his daughter's birthday party. He had bought her a teddy bear.

Probe: camera (filler)

Brandon left his condo and drove through a few red lights so that he would make it in time. Unfortunately, as he was driving through the third red light, he hit a car. Smashing into the windshield knocked him unconscious. A moment later, Brandon woke up./A day later, Brandon woke up.

Probe: smashing (no shift/shift)

A doctor was talking to him. She said that he had a concussion and needed to spend a few days in the hospital. Later that week, Brandon was well enough to go home. He took a cab home. He wasn't sure what had happened to his car. Brandon gave the cab driver a large bill, and the driver handed him back a twenty./ The cab driver dropped him off at his condo, and Brandon handed him a twenty. A day later, Brandon was checking his messages./A moment later, Brandon was checking his messages.

Probe: twenty (maintenance/removal/neutral)

There was a nasty e-mail from his ex-wife on the machine. She cursed at him for missing their daughter's party. Brandon decided to call her and explain what had happened.

Probe: photos (filler)

His ex-wife quickly became sympathetic. She said that she'd drop their daughter off at his house in a couple of hours. That afternoon the sun was out, and there was a nice breeze. Brandon was humming and enjoying a stroll with his daughter.

Probe: package (filler)

He really loved spending time with his little girl. He was sad that he couldn't be with her every day. When he thought of having to return his daughter to his ex-wife, he began to tear up./When he had to return his daughter to his ex-wife, he began to tear up. A day later, Brandon heard his neighbor calling him./A moment later, Brandon heard his neighbor calling him.

Probe: daughter (maintenance/removal/neutral)

A tow truck was bringing Brandon's car down the street. When it pulled into the driveway, Brandon was shocked to see no damage. A moment later, his neighbor told him that the neighborhood had pitched in to fix it./The next day, his neighbor told him that the neighborhood had pitched in to fix it.

Probe: shocked (no shift/shift)

The neighbor signed the tow truck receipt. Brandon offered to give his neighbor money, but he refused to accept it. A moment later, Brandon got into his car.

Probe: office (filler)

The doctor had told him not to drive for at least a month. But Brandon threw caution to the wind and sped off down the street.