

ERNST  
CLIFF

ACT ONE

Scene Six

CLIFF's room

ERNST

You know what is the trouble with English? It is not an exact language.  
Either one must memorize fifty thousand words either one cannot speak it correctly.

CLIFF

Either one must memorize -- or one cannot speak ...

ERNST

Aha! Either -- or.

(ERNST makes a notation in his notebook --  
then closes it and looks at his watch)

The time is now finished.

CLIFF

I'm in no hurry.

ERNST

But the lesson is one hour. No? Another pupil is waiting.

CLIFF

What other pupil?

ERNST

No other pupil?

(CLIFF shakes his head)

Then I make a suggestion: I have many friends. Most anxious for improving  
thier English. I put them on to you. But for tonight, I will telephone a lady friend.  
She will bring a friend for you. Elsa. She is very loving of Americans --  
Gary Cooper in particular.

CLIFF

Not tonight, Ernst.

ERNST

But you have not seen this Elsa! Hot stuff -- believe me! In one minute,  
I guarantee you are making a pass after her.

A pass at her.

CLIFF

Aha!! A pass at her!

ERNST

I've got a date tonight.

CLIFF

A typewriter? But what can one do with a typewriter?

ERNST

Not very much lately.

CLIFF

Then come! Perhaps you and I only! We make a large whoopee!

ERNST

(shakes his head)

I've got a budget, Ernst -- and it only allows for a very small whoopee -- unfortunately.

CLIFF

Then you will be my guest! I show you the real Berlin.

ERNST

It's very tempting ...

CLIFF

(moving close)

We will acquaint with one another.

ERNST

As soon as I can afford it ...

CLIFF

It is difficult, you know -- adjusting to the idea of a poor American. But I tell you a secret. There is no need for this poverty. Ja! If you are willing -- I show you a most excellent way to supplement your income ...

ERNST

Doing what?

CLIFF