

# EL TRABAJO EN EL ZOOLOGICO

## THE JOB AT THE ZOO

Translation & illustration by Bryce Hedstrom

A phrase that is crucial to understanding the punch line instantly is **we are going to lose**, so check to see if students understand that word combination and pre-teach it if necessary. Variations of the phrase "going to lose" appear several times in the story to prepare students during the final telling of the joke. Other important words for understanding the joke are **highlighted** on the list below:

<b>actúa</b>	<b>acts</b>	<b>disfraz</b>	<b>costume</b>	<b>ponerte</b>	<i>to put on</i>
<b>actuar</b>	<i>to act</i>	<b>era</b>	<i>was</i>	<b>sube</b>	<i>climbs up</i>
<b>alguien</b>	<i>somebody</i>	<b>espíritu</b>	<i>spirit</i>	<b>trabajo</b>	<i>job</i>
<b>árbol</b>	<i>tree</i>	<b>pierde el equilibrio</b>	<i>loses his balance</i>	<b>va a perder</b>	<b>is going to lose</b>
<b>cae</b>	<b>falls</b>	<b>jaula</b>	<b>cage</b>	<b>vamos a perder</b>	<b>we are going to lose</b>
<b>comienza a</b>	<i>begins to</i>	<b>se pone</b>	<i>puts on</i>	<b>zoológico</b>	<b>zoo</b>

Hay un estudiante que sabe que **va a perder** su **trabajo**. Necesita un trabajo o va a perder su posición en la universidad, así que va y busca otro trabajo.

Va un zoológico famoso para buscar trabajo. El director del zoológico le dice que sí hay un trabajo, pero es un trabajo muy diferente.

—¿Qué es? —le pregunta el estudiante.

— El gorila se murió, así que necesitamos un gorila nuevo, pero no tenemos suficiente dinero para comprar otro. El gorila era muy popular y **vamos a perder** mucho dinero si no tenemos un gorila. Pero tenemos un **disfraz** de gorila. Si puedes **ponerte** el disfraz y **actuar** como un gorila, te voy a dar el trabajo —le dice el director.

Al estudiante le parece no muy auténtico para un zoológico famoso, y también es una idea loca, pero él necesita el dinero y parece un trabajo fácil, así que acepta el trabajo. **Se pone** el disfraz y entra en la **jaula** del gorila.

A todos los turistas les gusta el "gorila nuevo" y aplauden mucho. Después de tres o cuatro días, el estudiante comienza a entrar en el espíritu del trabajo. Salta como un gorila, anda como un gorila, y grita como un gorila. Es uno de las atracciones más grandes del zoológico. Al estudiante le gusta, así que él **actúa** como un gorila más y más.

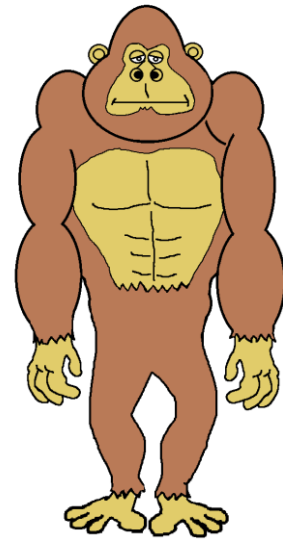
Un día, el estudiante **sube** un **árbol** en la jaula. Grita y salta como un gorila loco, pero **pierde el equilibrio** y **cae** en otra jaula. Es la jaula de un enorme león africano. El león lo mira y comienza a andar hacía el pobre estudiante. Él sabe que va a perder su vida. Tiene mucho miedo y **comienza a** gritar:

—¡Ayúdame! ¡Ayúdame! ¡Por favor, **alguien** ayúdame!

El león salta y empuja el estudiante al suelo. Lo mira y le dice:

—¡Cierra la boca, o los dos vamos a perder el trabajo!

*This joke addresses the **impostor syndrome**, that nagging feeling that we may just be faking our way through life. At least half of all successful people experience it and consider themselves frauds at some point in their careers. It can be therapeutic to see that this feeling affects others too... and to laugh about it together.*



# **THE JOB AT THE ZOO**

Translation & illustration by Bryce Hedstrom

There is a student that knows that he is going to lose his job. He needs a job or he is going to lose his position in the university, so he goes and looks for another job.

He goes to a famous zoo to look for a job. The director of the zoo says to him that there is a job, but it is a very different job.

“What is it?” the student asks him.

“The gorilla died, so we need a new gorilla, but we don’t have enough money to buy another one. The gorilla was very popular and we are going to lose a lot of money if we do not have a gorilla. But we have a gorilla costume. If you can put on the costume and act like a gorilla, I will give you the job,” the director says to him.

To the student it doesn’t seem very authentic for a famous zoo, and also it is a crazy idea, but the student needs the money and it seems like an easy job, so he accepts the job. He puts on the costume and goes into the gorilla cage.

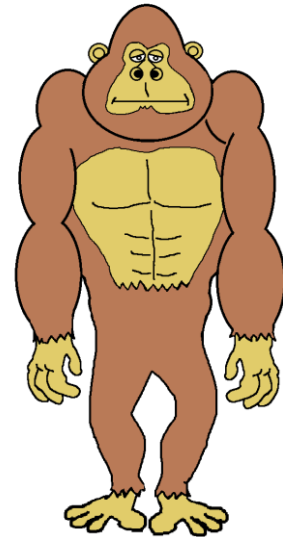
All of the tourists like the “new gorilla” and they applaud a lot. After three or four days, the student begins to enter into the spirit of the job. He jumps like a gorilla, he walks like a gorilla, and he yells like a gorilla. He is one of the biggest attractions at the zoo. The students likes, so he acts like a gorilla more and more.

One day he climbs up a tree in the cage. He yells and jumps like a crazy gorilla, but he loses his balance and falls into another cage. It is the cage of an enormous African lion. The lion looks at him and starts to walk towards the poor student. He knows that he is going to lose his life. He is very scared and he starts to yell:

“Help me! Help me! Please somebody help me!”

The lion jumps and pushes the students to the ground. He looks at him and he says to him:

“Shut your mouth, or both of us are going to lose our jobs!”



---

This joke addresses the **impostor syndrome**, that nagging feeling that we may just be faking our way through life. At least half of all successful people consider themselves frauds at some point in their careers. It can be therapeutic to see that this feeling affects others too... and to laugh about it together.