

# “Those Pajamas are Impossible”



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The scene we have chosen is taken from the film “The Mask” (1994).

Context: This dialogue consists on a short and informal interrogatory.

At the beginning of the scene, Stanley wakes up, believing that all that he had gone through the previous night was a dream. At this point of the film he cannot remember clearly what happened last night neither is he still fully aware of the powers of the mask.

To watch the scene follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj6BgJUG-Bo>

Questionary:

- Why is Stanley wearing pajamas?
- Why is Kellaway interrogating Stanley?
- Does Stanley know anything about the attack?

The speakers are:  
Stanley Ipkiss and Lieutenant Kellaway

K - Ipkiss? Stanley ipkiss?

S- Yes.

K - Lieutenant Kellaway, City Precinct. Do you know anything about the disturbances last night?

S - Disturbance?

K - Yes. some kind of prowler broke in and attacked Mrs Peenman. You didn't hear anything? She unloaded a couple of round of 21 buckshots five feet from your door.

S - This is impossible

K - ;Your pajamas are impossible, this actually happened!.

S - I see. I have an inner ear problem. Sometimes I can't hear anything.

K - Here's my card. If you remember anything unusual about last night, anything at all, call me

S - You bet ya, thank you, and good luck cracking the case.

## Transcription:

/ˈstænlɪ ɪpkɪs/ /lefˈtenənt keləweɪ/

- /R<sub>+</sub> ɪpkɪs/R<sub>+</sub> ˈstænlɪ ɪpkɪs/

- /p jɛs/

- /p lɛfˈtɛnənt keləweɪ/ /p ˈsɪtɪ ˈpriːsɪŋkt/ /R<sub>+</sub> də jʊ nəʊ ˈɛnɪθɪŋ əˈbaʊt ðə dɪs  
ˈtɜːbənsɪz lɑːst naɪt/

- /R dɪs ˈtɜːbəns/

- /p jɛs /p səm kaɪnd əv ˈpraʊlə brəʊk ɪn/ p ənd əˈtækt mɪsɪz piːmən/ R<sub>+</sub> jʊ dɪdnt  
hɪər ˈɛnɪθɪŋ /p ʃi ʌnˈləʊdɪd ə ˈkʌpl əv raʊnd əv ˈtwɛnti - wʌn ˈbʌkʃɒts /p faiv fiːt  
frəm jə dʒɪ/

- /Rðɪs ɪz/Rɪmˈpɒsəbl/

- /p jə pəˈdʒɔːməz ə ɪmˈpɒsəbl/ /p ðɪs ˈæktʃʊəli ˈhæpənd/

- /Raɪ siː/paɪ həv ən ˈɪnər ɪə ˈprɒbləm/ /pˈsʌmtaɪmz aɪ kɑːnt hɪər ˈɛnɪθɪŋ/

- /p hɪəz maɪ kɑːd/ /R ɪf jʊ rɪˈmɛmbər ˈɛnɪθɪŋ ʌnˈjuːzʊəl / R<sub>+</sub> əˈbaʊt lɑːst naɪt/ /R  
ˈɛnɪθɪŋ ət ɔːl/ /R<sub>+</sub>kɔːl mi/

- /p jʊ bɛɪ jə/ /R θæŋk ju/ /R ənd ɡʊd lʌk/ /R ˈkrækɪŋ ðə keɪs/

Analysis:

When Kellaway comes, he asks Stanley some questions in order to find out witnesses. We are going to say that Kellaway is the *Dominant speaker* here, because he is a Police Officer and so he uses his authority to demand information which will be useful for an investigation;

- /R dɪs'tɜːbəns/

Stanley is making sure about what he has just heard and he is looking for confirmation.

R instead of r+ because he is not the dominant speaker.

/p səm kaɪnd əv 'praʊlə brəʊk ɪn/ p ənd ə'tækt mɪsɪz piːmən

Kellaway's intentions are to give Stanley more clues about the incident as Stanley looks confused. So this is presented as *new information*.

The prominence can be perceived in PROWLER and ATTACKED as both are meant to enlarge the area of convergence.

We can oppose prowler to trespasser, intruder, stalker, if we think of the existential paradigm, and attacked to hit or strike.

(Set of possibilities that a speaker can regard as actually available in a given situation)

R+ jʊ didnt hɪər 'ɛnɪθɪŋ/

Declarative mood question: Kellaway, in this case the dominant speaker, asks for a confirmation or denial of what Stanley is saying - he seems confused about the attack that took place the night before, as he mimics the word to Kellaway.

- /p jə pə'dʒɑːməz ər ɪm'pɒsəbl/

Kellaway is located himself outside of the area of convergence, where he is expressing his independent viewpoint, so we think that this is an instance of separateness

/R θæŋk ju/ /R ənd ɡʊd lʌk

R Tone:

Thank you: social convention because civilians are most of the time thankful for the police service.

Good luck: R tone because the area of convergence doesn't grow as both are aware that they are talking about solving the case.

The prominence in good is an instance of syntagmatic organization, as it is a fixed expression - good luck.

As Stanley is a non-dominant speaker he only uses basic tones like P or R and not + tones.