

Name (in Romaji):	→
Student Number:	→
Class Day + Period:	→

VICTOR BERGE — INFLATIONARY LANGUAGE

Victor Borge (1909-2000) was a very talented person. He was a pianist, composer, songwriter, entertainer, and actor. He was born in Denmark, but he moved to the United States in 1940. He performed many comedy sketches using his piano as his prop.

Quotes:

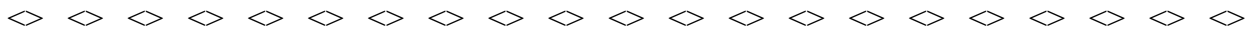
“A woman complimenting me on my act one night told me she hadn’t laughed so much since her husband died.”

“Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.”

Reference

IMDB (2025). Victor Borge. Retrieved June 9, 2025, from

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0096493/bio/?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm



Victor Borge’s “Inflationary Language” Routine

Many years ago in Denmark we had inflation, and you are familiar with that problem. I invented a language which I call “inflationary language.” In inflation, we have numbers rising. Prices go up. Anything that has to do with money goes up... except the language.

See, we have hidden numbers in the words like “wonderful,” “before,” “create,” “tenderly.” All these numbers can be inflated and meet the economy, you know, by rising to the



occasion. I suggest we add one to each of these numbers to be prepared. For instance, “wonderful” would be “twoderful,” “before” would be “befive,” “create” “crenine,” “tenderly” should be “elevenderly.” A “lieutenant” would be a “lieutelevenant.” A sentence like, “I ate a tenderloin with my fork” would be “I nined an elevenderloin with my fivek” and so on and so fifth.

I have a book here that I have brought. I will read this. This is an old book my father inherited from two of his cousins. I will talk to you about that later, when we get to that. I have a story here I would like to read to you so that you can get an idea of inflationary language, how it sounds when it's being used.



TASK: In the blanks, write what Victor Borge actually says. In the shaded parts directly after each blank, write what the real word or words should be.

_____ upon a time, there lived in Sunny
_____ a young man named Bob. He was a _____
_____ in the U.S. Air _____
_____. Bob had been fond of Anna, his _____ sister,
ever since she saw the light of day for the _____ time. And they
were both proud of the fact that _____ of his _____
_____ had been among the _____ of the U.S.
_____.



They were dining on the terrace. “Anna,” he said as he took a bite of a _____
 _____ herring, “You look _____
 _____. You never looked that lovely _____.” Anna
 really looked _____, despite of the illness from which she had
 not yet _____. “Yes,” repeated Bob, “You look
 _____ ... but you have
 _____ of the saddest eyes I have ever seen.”

The table was tastefully _____ with Anna’s favorite
 flowers: _____. They were now talking about Anna’s
 _____ husband, from whom she was _____
 _____. While on the radio, an Irish _____ sang “Tea
 For _____.” It was midnight; a clock in the distance struck
 _____. And suddenly, there in the moonlight stood her husband
 Don _____, obviously _____.

“Anna,” he blurted, “_____ me. I am only young
 _____ and you are my _____ and
 only.”

Bob jumped to his feet. “Get out of here, you _____ -
 faced _____!”

But Anna warned, “Watch out, Bob. He is an officer.”



“Yes, he is _____ . But I am _____
 _____ !”

[_____
 _____ ?]

“All right,” said Don _____ as he wiped his
 _____ . He then left and when he was _____
 through the revolving door, he mumbled, “I’ll go back to _____
 and be _____ again. Farewell, Anna.
 _____ , _____ .”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuDZIVFsi0&ab_channel=Di%C3%A1naKresz

