

Showing Off

"I can definitely do this stunt, and do it better than you!" John boasted to Colin, his neighbour, proudly, with his nose high in the air.

John, a YouTube content creator, enjoyed being in the limelight and had no sense of humility. As a result, when his neighbour invited John to watch him do a new bicycle stunt that he had mastered, John took it as an opportunity to show off and boast. "Huh! What's so good about that little trick of yours? I can definitely do better!" John mumbled to himself.

When John arrived home, he told all his YouTube subscribers, "I am going to show you an amazing bicycle stunt later this afternoon at 2 pm. Catch you all then!"

"I am not even going to practise!" John thought, "I'm sure I can pull it off!"

That afternoon, John, and his brother, Peter, were at the park, getting ready for John's performance. Peter was assigned to film the stunt, and he was bursting with excitement to see his brother in action.

"Hmph! I can do this without opening my eyes! It's too easy!" John bragged shamelessly.

"Ready? Set! Go!" Peter shouted at the top of his lungs while positioning himself in an ideal spot to film John.

As soon as John heard Peter's signal, he zoomed off at the speed of light as an arrogant grin spread across his face. John cycled to the ramp, where he attempted to do a backflip. However, he would soon have to face the consequences of not practising before attempting a stunt. John did not know how fast to pedal, and as such, he pedalled furiously. After all, the faster he pedalled, the faster his bicycle could go.

However, the bicycle's pedals soon began to spin at an almost immeasurable speed that his leg muscles were not able to catch up. Just as his feet slipped off the pedals, the bicycle fell on its side, dragging John down the ramp.

Fortunately, John's elbows managed to break his fall, but still, there was a gash on his left knee which was bleeding profusely.

"Ow!" John screamed in agony, "It's so painful!" John clutched his left knee and tears started to well up in his eyes.

"Delete the video!" John shouted, directing his order at Peter. Peter fumbled around with the phone, trying to stop the video, but when he saw what was on the screen, he froze. "Oh no..." Peter thought, "I'm dead meat." Peter's face turned pale as he could not imagine the scolding he would get from John.

"About that..." Peter replied nervously, "The video is on live..."

As soon as John heard what Peter had said, all the pain left his body. The fact that the video was live meant that everyone online had witnessed his huge embarrassment. With his heart racing, John ran to Peter and saw millions of comments moving up the screen.

"John is such a cry-baby!"

"John lied! He is no better than a baby!"

The viewers' comments were like daggers. Everyone was jeering at John for his incompetence at pulling off the stunt. John was humiliated, and his cheeks flushed pink with shame. Softly, he told Peter to turn off the live stream and dragged his feet home.

Ever since that incident, John made a promise to himself never to be such a braggart again. Due to his actions, John lost followers and had to stop posting. Every time he passed by the park, he would remember the humiliating incident. "Never," thought John, "never again will I boast."

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