

21. Hot vs. Cold

CAST: (2M, 1F) EDDIE, COLTON, STEPHANIE

PROPS: Notebook paper, washrag, bar of soap,
shower cap, two coffee cups.

SETTING: School classroom.

- 1 EDDIE: *(Stands at the front of the classroom, nervously holding*
2 *several pages of notebook paper.)* My report is titled *Hot*
3 *versus Cold. To assist me with my demonstrations will be*
4 *my friend, Colton Leatherwood. (Reads.)* Hot versus Cold
5 *by Eddie Schumann. The difference between the two is*
6 *astounding.*
- 7 COLTON: Yes, quite astounding!
- 8 EDDIE: Colton, you aren't supposed to say anything yet.
- 9 COLTON: Oh. Sorry.
- 10 EDDIE: *(Reads.)* And how? How might you ask?
- 11 COLTON: The point, explained by Mr. Schumann.
- 12 EDDIE: *(Gives Colton a look, then reads.)* Take for instance, the
13 *sun. The sun has a temperature of 6,000 degrees Celsius.*
- 14 COLTON: Scorching hot! Burnt to a crisp!
- 15 EDDIE: But the coldest temperatures at Antarctica have been
16 *recorded as negative eighty-nine point four degrees*
17 *Celsius.*
- 18 COLTON: Freezing my butt off!
- 19 EDDIE: Colton!
- 20 COLTON: Sorry.
- 21 EDDIE: But my point today is to prove to you that neither hot
22 *nor cold is superior to the other. But each has its own*
23 *unique features.*
- 24 COLTON: As explained to you by Mr. Schumann.
- 25 EDDIE: *(Gives Colton another look.)* Take for instance, dirt

clothes. *(Looks at report.)* Hot water cleans grass stains,
grape juice, chocolate, ketchup, mustard, tea, and coffee
while cold water cleans baby food, jelly, toothpaste, and
soy sauce.

COLTON: Soy sauce?

EDDIE: I found it on the Internet.

COLTON: Oh.

EDDIE: So as you will see, neither hot nor cold is superior, but
each is needed for different circumstances.

COLTON: Soy sauce stains!

EDDIE: Colton, not yet! *(Reading his report)* My next example
would be regarding physical injuries. The question often
comes up as to which method is best in treating an injury.

COLTON: You want me to fall to the ground and sprain my
ankle now?

EDDIE: Sure.

COLTON: *(Dramatically falls to the floor and grabs his leg.)* Oh,
my ankle! My ankle! I've sprained it!

EDDIE: For sprains, a cold ice pack will reduce inflammation.
So in this case, cold is the best choice. However, in the case
of a sore muscle ...

COLTON: *(Quickly stands, massaging arm.)* Oh, man, I'm so
sore! Coach really worked us out hard yesterday!

EDDIE: In this instance, heat improves circulation and helps
minimize the pain. Another example I would like to offer ...

COLTON: Is this the shower example? Because I've got the
props right over here! Hold on! *(Rushes to a plastic sack and*
pulls out a bar of soap, washrag, and a shower cap. Puts the
shower cap on his head) Ready!

EDDIE: No, Colton! Next is the coffee example!

COLTON: Oh. *(Puts the shower props aside.)* Sorry.

EDDIE: Could you be a little quieter while I do this? Please?

COLTON: Oh, sorry. I was just trying to help. I guess I got a little
ahead of myself. Or actually ahead of you. So yes, I'll just
stand here and be quiet. See, I'm being quiet.

1 EDDIE: *(Takes a deep breath and tries to compose himself.)* Hot
 2 coffee versus cold coffee. If we might have a volunteer
 3 from the audience ... *(Pause)* Any volunteers? *(Pause)*
 4 Anyone?
 5 COLTON: *(To the audience)* Hey, Belinda, you'll do it, won't you?
 6 *(Pause)* Why not? No it's not a stupid report!
 7 EDDIE: I'll take care of this, Colton. So, if we could have one
 8 volunteer. Any volunteers? *(Pause)* Please.
 9 COLTON: Looks like you might be stuck with me.
 10 EDDIE: Just one volunteer. Male or female.
 11 COLTON: *(Raises hand.)* I volunteer!
 12 EDDIE: Besides you, Colton. *(To audience)* Anyone? *(Pause)*
 13 Stephanie? Myra? Chris? Jason?
 14 COLTON: Come on, Stephanie! *(Starts chanting.)* Stephanie!
 15 Stephanie! Stephanie!
 16 STEPHANIE: *(Gets up from her seat and joins EDDIE and*
 17 *COLTON.)* Fine! But you owe me for this, Eddie! So, what
 18 do I have to do?
 19 EDDIE: OK, we have two cups of coffee ... Give me the cups.
 20 Colton.
 21 COLTON: *(Gets the two cups off a nearby table.)* Here you go.
 22 EDDIE: As you will see, Stephanie, we have two cups of coffee.
 23 STEPHANIE: *(Looks inside the cups.)* That's not coffee! It's
 24 water!
 25 COLTON: Let's pretend it's coffee, OK?
 26 STEPHANIE: Fine! It's coffee!
 27 EDDIE: And my question for you, Stephanie ... Do you prefer
 28 hot or cold coffee?
 29 STEPHANIE: What do you mean, do I prefer hot or cold coffee?
 30 Coffee is supposed to be hot!
 31 EDDIE: On the contrary. Nowadays, you may choose between a
 32 steaming cup of Joe or an iced latté. So as you see ...
 33 *(Holding out the cups)* You have two choices. And neither is
 34 right or wrong. Neither is superior. But both of these
 35 beloved drinks are yours for the choosing.

1 COLTON: Beloved drinks? Did you get that off the Internet, too?
 2 STEPHANIE: I'd rather have a Coke!
 3 EDDIE: But if you had to choose? A steaming cup of Joe, or an
 4 iced latté?
 5 STEPHANIE: I don't like coffee!
 6 COLTON: But if you had to choose, Stephanie!
 7 STEPHANIE: I told you, I don't like coffee!
 8 EDDIE: OK. Well, thank you for your participation. You may sit
 9 down now. *(STEPHANIE goes back to her seat.)*
 10 COLTON: You can ask me.
 11 EDDIE: Ask you what?
 12 COLTON: Do I prefer hot or cold coffee?
 13 EDDIE: Hot or cold coffee, Colton?
 14 COLTON: Well, I have to agree with Stephanie. I'd rather have
 15 a Coke.
 16 EDDIE: *(Frustrated, he sets the cups down.)* Let's move on. My
 17 next example ...
 18 COLTON: *(Grabs the soap, washrag, and shower cap. Puts the*
 19 *shower cap on his head.)* Ready!
 20 EDDIE: It's not that one yet, Colton!
 21 COLTON: Oh. *(Puts items away.)* Sorry. I'm just a step ahead of
 22 you, aren't I?
 23 EDDIE: If you would let me continue!
 24 COLTON: Sure, sure. I know, I'm supposed to stand here and be
 25 quiet. OK. Sorry. I'll be quiet now. You can continue. Go
 26 ahead! What are you waiting for? Oh, me. OK, I'm zipping
 27 my mouth. Sorry.
 28 EDDIE: *(Frustrated, he looks at his report.)* My next example
 29 would be hot drinks versus cold drinks for a hacking
 30 cough.
 31 COLTON: Isn't that like the hot and cold coffee example? Aren't
 32 you repeating yourself here?
 33 EDDIE: We're talking about a hacking cough.
 34 COLTON: Oh yeah! That's my cue! *(Begins coughing profusely.)*
 35 I'm sick! Sick! Sick! Sick!

1 EDDIE: Medically speaking, it makes no difference whether
 2 you use hot or cold drinks as long as you continue to drink
 3 fluids and prevent dehydration; eight-five percent of sore
 4 throats are viral and will get better on their own.
 5 COLTON: Dude, I know you got that from the Internet! *(Eddie*
 6 *gives him a long stare, then begins coughing again.)* But I
 7 don't have a sore throat! I have a cough!
 8 EDDIE: However, cold drinks are shown to be soothing while
 9 hot drinks help to release mucus.
 10 COLTON: Mucus? Yuck!!
 11 EDDIE: So again, I prove to you that neither hot nor cold is
 12 superior to the other, but each has its own purpose.
 13 COLTON: Uh, Eddie, aren't you supposed to take sides here?
 14 EDDIE: What do you mean?
 15 COLTON: Well, aren't you supposed to prove which is better?
 16 EDDIE: I took that approach, Colton, but I couldn't find enough
 17 evidence for either.
 18 COLTON: But everyone else in the class is taking sides on their
 19 issue. I picked mornings versus nights and night won.
 20 Peter did sweet versus salty and salty won. Sid did male
 21 versus female and ... well, we both know who won. So you
 22 picked hot versus cold and you have to pick a side. You
 23 can't be neutral.
 24 EDDIE: Colton, this is *my* report, so I'll do it *my* way, OK?
 25 COLTON: Fine. Don't blame me when you get one of these.
 26 *(Makes a zero sign.)*
 27 EDDIE: My last example ...
 28 COLTON: *(Rushes to the props and returns with the washrag*
 29 *soap, and shower cap. He puts the shower cap on.)* Ready!
 30 EDDIE: *(Rolls his eyes.)* Next time, remind me not to use an
 31 assistant.
 32 COLTON: Why? I'm adding to your point of view ... or rather
 33 lack of point of view.
 34 EDDIE: My point of view, Colton, is that hot and cold are
 35 equally important!

1 COLTON: And that's not what this assignment was about!
 2 EDDIE: Would you just let me finish!
 3 COLTON: My pleasure. Please, continue. *(Goes to the coffee cup*
 4 *and pours water on the soap and washrag.)*
 5 EDDIE: What are you doing?
 6 COLTON: Getting ready for your next example.
 7 EDDIE: You weren't supposed to do that!
 8 COLTON: Are we not doing the shower example?
 9 EDDIE: We are, but you are just supposed to stand there.
 10 COLTON: Hey, I'm in drama and I like to act stuff out, OK?
 11 EDDIE: OK, fine! *(Composes himself.)* My next example, hot
 12 showers versus cold showers.
 13 COLTON: I'm not saying a thing ... even though I don't see how
 14 you can be neutral on this one.
 15 EDDIE: Colton, will you shut up?
 16 COLTON: Who wants to take a cold shower?
 17 EDDIE: *(Ignores him.)* There is evidence to show that cold
 18 showers in the morning prolong life.
 19 COLTON: Well, you can't believe everything that you hear! I
 20 don't believe it.
 21 EDDIE: Especially when adding exercise and fish supplements.
 22 COLTON: *(Laughs.)* Fish supplements?
 23 EDDIE: *(Reading his report)* And cold showers also have the
 24 following positive effects ...
 25 COLTON: Brrrr! Talk about brutal!
 26 EDDIE: *(Reading his report)* Increases circulation, contracts the
 27 muscles to eliminate toxins, helps reduce migraines,
 28 alleviates skin breakouts, improves metabolism, and
 29 curbs the appetite. On the other hand ...
 30 COLTON: On the other hand I'm sticking to hot showers!
 31 EDDIE: Hot showers relieve stress, encourage a good night's
 32 sleep, open pores ...
 33 COLTON: Oh, oh, oh! I'm supposed to be doing something here!
 34 *(Mimes taking a shower, singing loudly.)*
 35 EDDIE: Colton, what are you doing?

1 COLTON: I'm taking a shower! Helping you with your report!
 2 (Continues with his shower and singing.)
 3 EDDIE: Colton! Colton! *Colton!*
 4 COLTON: (Finally stops.) *What?*
 5 EDDIE: Why are you singing?
 6 COLTON: Because I sing in the shower, Eddie! Don't you
 7 Doesn't everyone?
 8 EDDIE: No, actually, I don't! And I didn't ask you to sing during
 9 my report, did I? I just asked that you stand there next to
 10 me and at the proper time, pull out the props and help to
 11 demonstrate my point!
 12 COLTON: And I helped you demonstrate your point, didn't I?
 13 OK, so maybe I wasn't quiet, but hey, I told you I was in
 14 drama and you said that was great. In fact, you said that
 15 was perfect.
 16 EDDIE: (Speaks slowly.) Just be quiet, OK? (Looks at his report.)
 17 In conclusion ...
 18 COLTON: Aren't I supposed to do something here? You know
 19 for your conclusion?
 20 EDDIE: Forget it.
 21 COLTON: No! No! I don't want to forget it! I have a job here and
 22 I'm going to do it to the best of my ability!
 23 EDDIE: I said forget it!
 24 COLTON: No! I don't want to forget it!
 25 EDDIE: Stop it, Colton! You're messing up this entire report!
 26 COLTON: Oh, is that what I'm doing? Messing up your report?
 27 I thought I was here to add to it!
 28 EDDIE: Oh, you added to it all right!
 29 COLTON: I brought the props, I forced Stephanie up here, and
 30 I demonstrated taking a shower. Wait. Was I taking a cold
 31 or hot shower?
 32 EDDIE: It doesn't matter.
 33 COLTON: It matters to me.
 34 EDDIE: It was just a demonstration, Colton.
 35 COLTON: Which I totally messed up, right? You didn't like my

singing in the shower and I'm sorry for trying to help!
 (Takes off the shower cap and puts it on EDDIE.) Here, you
 can do your own demonstrations from now on! (Exits.)
 EDDIE: (After a pause, still wearing the shower cap, he looks
 down at his report and reads dryly.) In conclusion, it is my
 belief that neither hot nor cold is superior to the other,
 but both are necessary in our day-to-day lives. And
 sometimes it's just a matter of choice. Neither is wrong,
 but both are important. (Looks up.) Thank you. (Forces a
 smile, pulls the shower cap off his head, crumples up his
 report, then exits.)