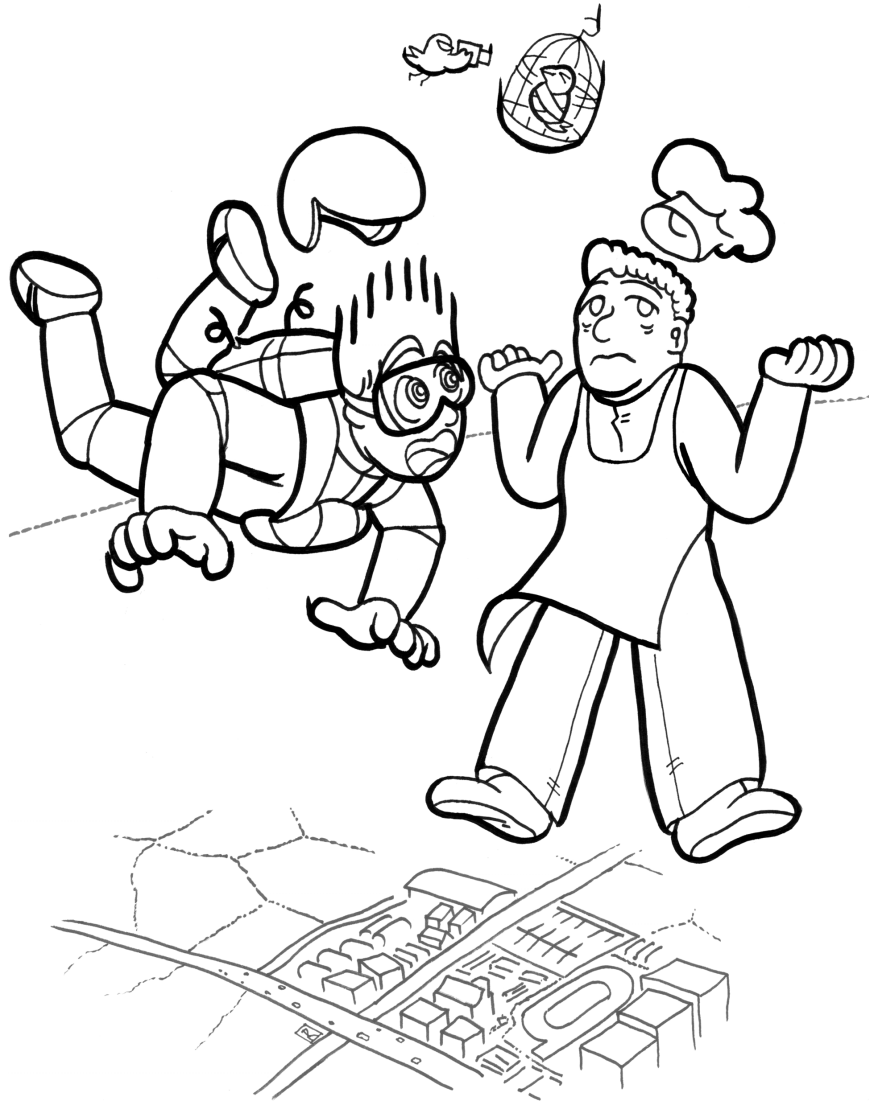


6

Skydiving



Skydiving

A man went skydiving for the first time in his life. After listening to the instructor's lecture, he felt confident and ready to go.

When it was his turn, he jumped out of the plane, thrilled at the view and the rush of air past his ears. About five seconds later, he pulled the ripcord. Nothing happened. No parachute opened up!

He tried again. Still nothing.

He was zooming toward earth faster and faster. Just when he started to panic, he remembered his back-up chute. He pulled its cord. Nothing happened.

He started frantically pulling both cords, but still no parachute appeared.

Suddenly, he looked down, and he couldn't believe what he saw! There was another man sailing through the air, but the man was going up, not down!

As the two men passed each other in mid-air, the first man yelled, "Hey! Do you know anything about skydiving?"

The second man yelled back, "No! Do you know anything about gas stoves?"

◆ Vocabulary

skydiving	– jumping from an airplane with a parachute
lecture	– talk, speech
confident	– sure, certain, secure
thrilled	– excited
the rush of air	– fast movement of air, wind
ripcord	– rope pulled to release the parachute
zooming	– going very fast
back-up	– stand-by
frantically	– madly, crazily
appear	– become visible
in mid-air	– in the sky

◆ **Question**

What's so funny?

- a. The second man had an accident – his gas stove exploded.
- b. The second man suggests that the first man use gas stove next time.

◆ **Remarks**

The man on the way down asks the man on the way up for help. But the man on the way up, who has been blown into the sky by a gas stove explosion, is in just as bad a situation as the first man!