

Given information: The Cherry's Grandson has wrecked their car.

Stranger exposition which they would not believably say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: Well, now look at our car, our old beat up impala which we've had so many memories in. It has been completely totalled by Timothy, our own grandson.

Mr. Cherry: That Impala was my dream vehicle for the first 10 years of our marriage.

Mrs. Cherry: It wasn't the Impala that was wrecked tonight, it was our memories.

Neighbor exposition which they would say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: How could you let him drive it alone?! He's 16!

Mr. Cherry: When I was 16 all I wanted was that car, I'm sorry I wanted to let him in to taste a bit of my dream.

Mrs. Cherry: That was years ago, and you let that old dream drive our grandson straight into an accident!

Given information: The Cherry's dog is pregnant

Stranger exposition which they would not believably say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: How exciting that our dog is pregnant, she is just days away from her delivery date.

Mr. Cherry: It's been almost 9 weeks since we found out.

Mrs. Cherry: It's also been almost 8 weeks since we took her to the vet.

Neighbor exposition which they would say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: We need to take Snuffles to the vet, she's making weird noises.

Mr. Cherry: She's been getting fatter too, you think she's alright?

Mrs. Cherry: I just took her to get groomed. She's young, we shouldn't have to worry about her. Unless.

Mr. & Mrs. Cherry: She's pregnant!

Given Information: The Cherrys have just paid off their mortgage.

Stranger exposition which they would not believably say to each other:

Mr. Cherry: Now that we own the house, we should think about some things we'd like to fix.

Mrs. Cherry: We just paid off the mortgage, by sending out the last check two minutes ago, let's slow down.

Mr. Cherry: I just want to fix our space, which has been crumbling to pieces each year more than the last.

Neighbor exposition which they would say to each other:

Mr. Cherry: Well that's it, we own the place.

Mrs. Cherry: You sent it in?

Mr. Cherry: \$600,000 later and we can now proudly claim this as property of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Cherry!

Given Information: The Cherry's sink is clogged.

Stranger exposition which they would not believably say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: Oh, husband of 35 years, whom I love dearly, I cannot make dinner when the kitchen sink is clogged.

Mr. Cherry: Did you try turning on the garbage disposal that's right there on your left where it's always been in our house?

Mrs. Cherry: No, I hadn't tried that, because as we've known for ten years now, it doesn't work either.

Neighbor exposition which they would say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: Hank, the sink is clogged again.

Mr. Cherry: Which one?

Mrs. Cherry: Which one do you think?

Mr. Cherry: I'll go get the snake.

Mrs. We should really get that garbage disposal fixed.

Given Information: The year is 2029

Stranger exposition which they would not believably say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: The morning paper says that the year is 2029

Mr. Cherry: That makes sense because you, my wife, and I celebrated the new year last night.

Mrs. Cherry: As your wife, I will say I had a good time celebrating.

Neighbor exposition which they would say to each other:

Mrs. Cherry: What day is it?

Mr. Cherry: Tuesday the 1st of January.

Mrs. Cherry: Oh, happy new year.

Mr. Cherry: We've almost hit a new decade, prepare for your last year before the 30's!

### **Notes**

The moment before

What's happening just before the scene begins. Urgency needs to be created. Where are you coming from? When the scene begins it needs to be full of the emotion from the moment before to have purpose.

The pointing forward

Cause and effect. If there are scenes that can be moved, you are not pointing forward.

Dialogue

No other character would say it that exact way

Advancing the plot

Naturalism. Not present in a play. Its real dialogue reimaged, edited.

Exposition -

Stranger exposition - The kind of thing people would say to each other when they don't know each other. They have to explain a lot to each other. They have to use a lot of exposition because these people need to explain themselves to each other.

Neighbor Exposition - people who know each other. Same shared history and experiences.

Audience looking in is missing a lot of information. Your audience loves to figure things out. As long as you don't confuse them.

Don't put stranger exposition into neighbors' mouths. It's awkward. Introduce a stranger into a situation to get that information out.

*Could the audience be a stranger to a narrator?*

Use exposition only when it is critical

Make your audience curious

Introduce a new character

Link exposition to emotions