Room 101 Speech (edited)

1. Are you tired of cheesy adverts that make you cringe to the bone? Have you had enough of Barry Scott showing you how to clean your old pennies? Do you think it’s time to put an end to those irritating slogans constantly throbbing in your brain? If so, we can all agree that the world would be a better place without them.

Like me, I’m sure that most of you all watch a fair amount of television. But doesn’t it anger you that, just because we choose to watch a variety of entertaining programmes on ITV and Channel 4, we are victims of tacky advertisements and catchphrases every ten minutes when it’s time for the commercial break?!

I find it particularly frustrating when watching a film. Imagine: you’re sitting at home watching Titanic on ITV, when Kate Winslet whispers her last words to Leonardo – ‘I will never let go’, and releases his frozen corpse into the depths of the Atlantic.

Your snivelling becomes sobbing, the tears begin to flow, when suddenly Kerry Katona’s infuriating voice ruins the atmosphere, making an inappropriate joke about ‘breasts being enlarged’ on the infamous Iceland advert. Grief quickly turns to anger as you feel compelled to put your fist through the television screen. And when you think it can’t get any worse, she says in her nauseating accent: ‘that’s why mum’s go to Iceland!’ Surely that’s enough to put anyone off!

But it’s not just Kerry Katona. There are hundreds of these irritating commercials. From Picture Loans and Kandoo, to the Esure advert – the list goes on!

2. My next subject I intend to condemn is strange or useless Christmas presents. These usually come from distant relatives or elderly neighbours. If this is the case, the chances are that they don’t know any of your interests – and at some times it shows more than others!

Every year, without doubt some people manage to surprise me – most notably a well-meaning couple over the road. Last Christmas they bought me a set of initialled handkerchiefs, a plastic scroll of the Chinese New Year and some serviettes with frogs on. ‘I knew you’d like them because you’ve always loved frogs’, the woman said. I felt too embarrassed to do anything but agree, as I wondered where she’d got this bizarre idea from! My dad received a book about cats, and my mum a dustpan and brush!

You can always tell if a present has been locked away in an old drawer for years on end, as a stingy relative has strived to seek out a poor innocent subject on who to dump their rubbish. I would rather they simply sent a card, or even nothing at all instead of something you don’t want. It could also save you from trying to think of something to say about the half-hearted ‘gift’ in a thank you letter that your parents nag you to write every year. Haven’t you ever been in that situation? ‘Thank you so much for the “grow your own” water cress kit! My packed lunches will never be the same again’!

It may seem funny looking back on some of the things people have bought me in the past, but I am sick and tired it! Had enough of being forced to put on a fake mask of appreciation and gratitude for things that could mistakably be for your granddad? Then put an end to it now!

3. Finally, I would like to talk about ‘The Jeremy Kyle Show’. Not only is it tedious, unlike ‘Jerry Springer’, but Jeremy Kyle simply patronises and intimidates dull lowlifes on national television.

He starts by aggravating the ‘guests’ with constant reminders of how they have been mistreated by their family or other half, and continuously provokes them until they start to act in response. He never seems to solve their problems as, most of the time, he crucifies the people who come for his help with a bombardment of aggressive remarks about their wrong-doings in the past. At times they can become too angry to withstand the verbal abuse, and respond in the same way – usually making fools of themselves in front of everyone they know. After crushing their self-esteem, he usually encourages the people to leave each other anyway, making the whole show pointless.

Why would anyone even consider that it might help their relationships? They probably go there thinking they will seek help from a professional, someone who will understand them, and not make personal judgements of their character. However, in reality they merely provide entertainment for members of the public who enjoy watching these alleged ‘uneducated commoners’ being bullied into a confession of private issues.

Even if the guests only make an appearance because they’re low on cash, is it really worth it, when their reputation will be scarred for the rest of their lives?!

I will now leave you with, in my opinion, a very accurate interpretation of the show by John Culshaw from ‘Dead Ringers’. If your mind isn’t made up already, this should make my points finally hit home!

Oli Robinson 5DAP