

- MS. SCHLAU:** Dear Students, welcome to today's lecture. Today you'll need good nerves because I'm planning to show you how useful being frightened can be. Ah, here comes Professor Einstein. Now we can start. Shhh.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Ms. Schlau? Are you there? Oh, hello dear students. Have you by chance, seen my wonderful assistant? Ah! Ms. Schlau! You terrified me. Explain yourself!
- MS. SCHLAU:** You're helping science, Professor, because today we're talking about ways to scare.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** What? And I'm the guinea pig? Outrageous. Nobel Prize winners are national treasures.
- MS. SCHLAU:** But scaring can really be very useful.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** That just seems academically dubious.
- EINSTEIN:** Well, then let's take a look at the latest film by Christoph. JOWO, start the film!
- MS. SCHLAU:** What wonderful **grapes (WEINTRAUBEN)** Christoph has in his **garden (GARTEN)**. And he is already looking forward to eating them. But danger is lurking. There are many others who also love to **eat (ESSEN)** grapes: **birds (VÖGEL)**.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** What can he do about this?
- MS. SCHLAU:** I think Christoph has an idea. He can just sit there and guard his grapes.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** But that will get **boring (LANGWEILIG)** after a while.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Yes, and that's why he comes up with another idea: A cross, a jacket - Ah, I get it. A **scarecrow (VOGELSCHUCHER)**. Hat and face. A friendly scarecrow. Now some gloves and finally a chic scarf. That will protect the grapes. OK.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** But how do the experts do it? Vintners, for instance, with their huge vineyards?
- MS. SCHLAU:** There are birds there too, especially starlings. For them, grapes are delicious treats. They invade the **vineyards (WEINBERG)** and eat absolutely everything. They totally devour it all. But here comes Mr. Weissbrot. Mr. Weissbrot is a field warden and is trying to fight the starling plague. Whenever he discovers a swarm of starlings, he springs into action. He loads a very special pistol. First with warning shot ammunition and then with a small rocket propellant. And when he shoots, here's what happens: first, the explosive sound startles the birds, and then the rocket flash and bang makes the starlings fly away.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Ah, look, they're just landing in the neighboring trees. And once they get hungry, they simply head back to the vineyards.

MS. SCHLAU: Then Mr. Weissbrot has to use his pistol again. Some vineyards also have an automatic shooting system, as seen here. It uses gas. People try to scare away the birds with this as well. Another trick vintners use is to cover the grapevines with a big net.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Oh, that is a lot of work.

MS. SCHLAU: But that way grapes can ripen without being disturbed. There are other places as well where birds don't belong. For example, at an **airport (FLUGHAFEN)**. Particularly large birds are definitely not wanted here, because if they get into these engines, it can be very dangerous. Here are some photos of past accidents.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Oh, the blades of the engine are really damaged. Metal pieces could easily fly into the engine and it costs a lot of money to repair these machines.

MS. SCHLAU: And this is why people have thought up several ways to keep birds away from airports. For examples, in some places they let the grass grow tall. Big birds don't like tall grass because they can't see anything. Here at the Cologne/Bonn Airport there is also a field warden, Mr. Eiserfei, who does the same thing as Mr. Weissbrot in the vineyards. He shoots to chase the birds away from the airport.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: But after a while, the birds return. Some even get used to the shooting.

MS. SCHLAU: That's right. But then there's also a border collie, Shadow. That's a breed that's very popular as a sheepdog. Shadow has been trained to **chase away (VERTREIBEN)** birds. With this special whistle, Shadow's owner, Dr. Kater, gives him commands. To the right, to the left. He sends Shadow to the places where the birds have settled. And Shadow flushes them out again.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Haha, he does that for so long and so well that eventually the birds don't want to land there anymore. They would rather look for somewhere else to go. Probably for an extended time. Now the airplanes can take off and land undisturbed. Great!

- MS. SCHLAU:** Yes, now you can go to your owner again, Shadow. You did a good job. Good **dog (HUND)**.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** And how did Christoph's method work?
- MS. SCHLAU:** A few grapes were picked off, but overall, he can be happy with his scarecrow and his harvest.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Ms. Schlau, I am excited. That was a wonderful film. Brilliant science. I want to become a fear expert as well! Umm, please turn around for a bit, would you? And don't look. Boo! Hahaha! You - you weren't afraid at all. What did I do wrong?
- MS. SCHLAU:** You were missing the surprise factor. Besides, you look rather silly.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Silly? That is not possible.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Yes, just look.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Aha! How right you are. But you have to admit: I would be a rather talented scarecrow. Hahahaha!