Examination of the Plaintiff in Accident Case

Q: Good morning sir, please state your name and **spell it1** for the record.

A: My name is Frank Castro.

Q: Mr. Castro, where do you presently reside?

A: I live on **Willow Street number 1992**, in the Bronx.

Q: **And3**…who do you live there with, Mr. Castro?

A: I live there with my wife and **four4** children.

Q: Are you presently employed, Mr. Castro?

A: **Not at the present time5**. You know, I haven’t been able to work since the accident; it left me in really **bad shape6**.

Q: Well, before the accident, **were you employed7**?

A: Oh yeah, of course.

Q: What **type8** of work did you do?

A: I worked at a **print shop9**.

Q: And…how long **had you been working10** at the print shop before the accident?

A: I had been working at that job for **more than11** seven years, and they really liked me there because I have always been an **honest man12** and very reliable in everything I do.

Q: Yes, I understand. Now Mr. Castro, at the time this accident occurred, was your job within **walking distance13** from your home, or did you **have to take14** a bus or train?

A: **Well15**, let me tell you, when I first started working at the print shop, I did live far away; that is why my wife and I decided **to move16** to the Bronx.

Q: Very well, please go on.

A: We were very fortunate to find an apartment that was **five blocks17** from the print shop, many times I had time to go home for lunch.

Q: **Would you say18** that the print shop is located in a **residential19** or in a commercial area?

A: Well, in that area there are some very nice houses, but there are more businesses than residences **so20** I’d say it’s **a commercial zone21**.

Q: Now, Mr. Castro, I want you to **think back22** to the morning of   
**April 4th, 198323**. Did you walk to work that day?

A: April fourth was the day of the accident…yeah.

Q: Yes, but did you walk to work that day?

A: Yeah, yeah, of course I went to work. I was **always on time24**, I almost never missed work. When you have four children you can’t **afford the luxury25** of **skipping work26** all the time. You know how hard it is to find a good job. **Besides27**, I really enjoyed working for that company.

Q: On that occasion, sir, how did you **get to28** your job? Did you walk?

A: Yes, yes, I walked to work **as usual29**.

Q: Mr. Castro, what were the **weather conditions30** on the morning of April 4th?

A: **Let’s see31**…that was a sunny morning even though it was still a little bit **chilly32**.

Q: Now, Mr. Castro, please **tell us33** what happened when you got to the intersection of North and Pine streets, the intersection you **had to cross34** in order to get to the print shop.

A: Well, when I got to **the corner35** of **North and Pine36**, I stopped for a second to wait for the **green light37**; as soon as the light changed I started to cross. **I swear38** I hadn’t walked more than three steps when I felt a huge **blow39** from behind. I next felt terrible pain in **my left leg40**. I don’t know exactly what happened. I only know that I fell forward; I went **headlong41** into the pavement.

Q: Did you lose consciousness **at this time42** Mr. Castro?

A: No, I didn’t lose consciousness, but I was a little bit **dazed43**, yeah.

Q: Mr. Castro, what was the first thing you noticed as you were lying there, **face down44** on the street?

A: Well, I remember **feeling sharp pain45** in my left leg, I tried moving it but I couldn’t.

Q: Did anyone come to your **assistance46** at this time?

A: **Quite a bit47** of people started gathering around me, and I **still48** couldn’t move my leg. Finally, someone told me not to move, that an ambulance was **on its way49**. I did **feel a little better50** when I heard this.

Q: And…did the ambulance **eventually51** arrive?

A: Yes, the paramedics arrived. They very carefully picked me up and placed me on a **stretcher52**; then, while I was still **strapped53** to the stretcher, they lifted me into the ambulance and took me to the emergency room.

Q: What happens…**I’m sorry54**, what happened once you were brought into the emergency room?

A: The nurses got there…sorry, the nurses **cut off55** the left leg of the pants I was wearing and started **taking x-rays56** of my leg with a portable machine they had there. They also hooked my right arm up to an **IV57**and **drew58** some blood.

Q: **Go on59** Mr. Castro, what else did they do for you at the hospital?

A: Well, at that time the doctor arrived. He **injected me60** with some anesthesia and I fell asleep. I don’t know what happened after that.

Q: Mr. Castro did you **lose consciousness61** at any time before the anesthesia was administered to you?

A: No, I didn’t lose consciousness at any moment, though the pain was **so62** bad I almost cried.

Q: I understand. When you **came out63** of the anesthesia, what happened? How were you feeling at that time?

A: Uh, I felt my head was very heavy and I was kind of out of it. My leg was hurting a lot, **it was throbbing64**. When I was able to sit up on the bed, I saw they had put **a cast65** on me all the way from my **big toe66** to my groin.

Q: And…**how long67** did you have to stay at the hospital Mr. Castro?

A: I was there for about eight days.

Q: During your stay at the hospital, what else did the doctors do for you,   
**if anything68**?

A: They didn’t do much, really. **The orthopedist69** went to see me the next day and explained that, according to **the x-rays70**, it looked like I had a broken femur, tibia or **fibula71**, but that he wasn’t sure yet.

Q: **Did they tell you72** anything else at that time Mr. Castro?

A: Uh, as it turned out, I had in fact broken my **femur73**. I also had a **dislocated74** knee **joint75**.

Q: Did the doctor, the orthopedist, did he say anything to you at this time? **Anything else76**?

A: He explained that **I had to try77** and leave my leg still because that was the function of the cast they had put on me.

Q: And…**what function78** was that?

A: Well, to **hold down79** the fractured bones, so that they could properly **fuse80** together.

Q: Did the doctor **prescribe81** any type of medicine for you while you were in the hospital Mr. Castro?

A: I think the only medicine they gave me were some **painkillers82**, because I was in a lot of pain. My leg felt **swollen83**.

Q: Do you remember if the doctor gave you any medications **to reduce84** the swelling in your leg?

A: Yes, I think so.

Q: And…aside from the swelling and the pain in your leg, Mr. Castro, did you experience any other **discomforts85** during the time you were in the hospital?

A: Well, I couldn’t sleep at night.

Q: Why was that Mr. Castro? Was it because of the pain?

A: It was simply because lying in bed all day made my body **go numb86**. I also began **to suffer87** from terrible back pain. I guess the back pain   
**was a result of88**being in bed **24 hours a day89**.

Q: I understand. Thank you very much for your time Mr. Castro, **we’re all done90** here.

A: You’re welcome.

**90 Scoring Units**