

SYNTAX ERROR

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## CHARACTERS

ALICE	A die-hard computer programmer who has completely forgotten how to speak English.
BOB	Another computer programmer who has also forgotten how to speak English.
SERVER	A waitress with the great misfortune of having the programmers seated in her station, and who does not speak programming.

## SETTING

An Italian restaurant, modern day.

SCENE

*(Two computer programmers are on a first date at a restaurant. They're sitting at a table, with menus in front of them.)*

ALICE

Declare D as new date, set D dot location equals restaurant.

BOB

Restaurant dot name equals Mario's Italian Bistro.

*(Alice looks at the front of her menu, then nods.)*

Set D dot participants equals new collection.

*(Alice smiles at Bob, mildly appreciative.)*

D dot participants dot add new, set name equals Bob.

*(Alice goes to speak, but Bob holds up a hand to stop her.)*

D dot participants dot add new, set name equals Alice.

*(Alice beams a smile of appreciation at Bob, who raises a glass to her in salute.)*

ALICE

Set D dot quality equals seven point six.

*(Bob, thinks about this for a moment, then nods in concurrence. Just then, a server comes to the table.)*

SERVER

Are you ready to order?

*(Alice and Bob look at the server in confusion.)*

Order. Food. Menu... restaurant... any of this ringing a bell?

ALICE

Syntax error.

SERVER

What?

ALICE

Syntax error. Improperly formed statement.

SERVER

You know how this works, right? You are the customers, and you order food. Then I go and get it for you because I'm the server.

*(At the word "server", Alice's and Bob's eyes light up!)*

What? What did I say?

*(Excited...)*

ALICE

Set C equals new connection.

BOB

C dot server connection address equals... *(he looks at her nametag...)* Connie.

ALICE

Set C dot protocol equals HTTP get, target equals consumables.

BOB

C dot target dot description equals nachos.

ALICE AND BOB

C dot execute!

*(They turn to stare at the server, who just shakes her head in confusion. In frustration, they repeat...)*

C dot execute!

SERVER

Oookkkaayyy. Well, I heard the word nachos in there, so let's go with that.

*(Server leaves.)*

BOB

Console dot echo "awkward!"

*(Alice rolls her eyes to express “totally!” They laugh a little, then suddenly Alice has a thought.)*

ALICE

If left paren not weather dot precipitation right paren, open bracket transportation dot mode equals walking semicolon transportation dot destination equals park.

*(Bob looks at Alice, patiently waiting for something. She looks back, wondering why he hasn't responded. He gives her an expectant look, and she mutters to herself...)*

Transportation dot mode equals... transportation dot destina—

*(Suddenly she realizes.)*

Close bracket.

*(Bob nods in understanding.)*

BOB

Compile validated!

*(The server comes back with a plate of nachos and places it on the table.)*

Set C dot protocol equals HTTP get, target equals check.

ALICE

C dot execute.

SERVER

Just speak English, you crazy—

ALICE AND BOB

C dot execute!

*(The server looks at them in disgust.)*

SERVER

Whatever!

*(The server shakes her head in dismay and walks off.  
The happy programmers begin to eat the nachos. Lights  
out.)*