

Common Ground

Two neighbours Ned and Nigel and Bert the builder! Bert standing firmly between them.

Ned: Ah, Bert the builder - Thank you for coming today. Is Bob away?

Bert: He is entertaining children...again- I do all his work now!

Ned: Well, I would like you to build a large wall just along here...and make sure it is in **his** (*pointing angrily at Nigel*) garden

Nigel: No, "**I**" would like you to build a large, **tall** wall just along here

Bert: Actually, that is almost the same place – between your two gardens –

Ned: I am providing the timber so I...

Nigel: I have lots of timber, you can use mine and I have nails...

Bert: Erm...excuse me. You both would like a wall to separate your land – along the ground just here...

Ned: Yes I have had enough of him – borrowing all my gardening equipment and never bringing them back...

Nigel: Like what...!

Ned: My Lawn mower,

Nigel: It was broken – I filled it with petrol and it never worked.

Ned: It was electric! That's why it caught fire.

Nigel: You should have given me the lead then.

Ned: Well, what about the tools I have given to you over the years...hammer, screwdriver and my drill...why didn't you just go and buy your own

Nigel: Because I was mending **your** shed!

Ned: And he complains about my piano playing - all the time

Nigel: Well its too...too...

Ned: Do you know a piano tuner just turned up at my house my house last week

Bert: Didn't you call a piano tuner?

Nigel: No, I did...that it too out of tune!

Ned: Well you should hear him on the violin... I've been asking him to play a song my dog doesn't know.

Bert: What do you mean?

Ned: Every time he plays his violin my dogs howls!

Nigel: Yes, and another thing - your dog – always frightening my cat

Ned: It's your cat that keeps pooping in my garden

Nigel: That's because your dog frightens him!

Ned: And your dog bit the piano tuner...

Bert: Ok! Ok! Look it seems to me that you don't want a wall!

Nigel and Ned together:
We don't?

Bert: I will take your wood and nails – and I'll build you a...a... coffee table and two chairs! How's that. Here just like this one. (**shows them to table and chairs**) Then you can sit, drink a coffee together and talk about the things you have in common.

Ned: Like what?

Bert: Well you both like gardening and with all your tools I am sure you can find things you can build together

Nigel: Well that true – you remember we used build go-karts when we were younger?

Ned: Yes that was fun...

Nigel: we shared good design ideas.

Bert: And you both like music – rather than criticise one another constantly, may be you can find some music you have in common and play together...

Nigel: Yes, I would like that

Bert: You both seem to have a love of animals too. Perhaps you can go on some visits to farms

Ned: Or animal sanctuaries

Nigel: Yes that would be good

Bert: You see, around this coffee table, you can make yourselves some drinks and I am sure you will find that you have far more things that you have in common than the things that separate you...

Nigel: Yes, Bert you are right! I'll tell you what I'll get the coffee. What sort of coffee do you like Ned.

Ned: O...I think...Common Ground.

Nigel: Me too.