

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

By Rod

This sketch is based on Matthew 7: 24-27 and Luke 6: 47-49, Jesus' parable of the two house builders.

CAST

Commentator TV voice-over person. Male or female. Not necessarily seen.
Ruth Tyler-More The TV expert House Doctor [Female, but could be male with suitable name change]
Doug The wise builder. Perhaps dressed in overalls, hard hat, etc. Male
Sandy The foolish builder. Thespian type. Could be dressed flamboyantly. Male or female.

Commentator This week's special edition of Property Ladder features two people who want to get their feet on that all-important first rung. And they have each decided to do so by building their own homes from scratch. They are Doug and Sandy. *[Enter Doug and Sandy]*
Doug has experience in the building trade and a degree in Civil Engineering from Brunel University.
Sandy has a degree in Leisure Studies from the University of Life and experience in amateur dramatics ..

Sandy *[Overacting as a bad Shakespearean actor]* Once more unto the beach dear friends.

Commentator Very amateur dramatics. *[Sandy looks aggrieved]*
To give them a helping hand we sent along our House Doctor, Ruth Tyler-More, to dish out some down-to-earth practical advice.
[Enter Ruth]

Ruth Hello, Doug. Hello Sandy.

Doug Hello Ruth, it's good to meet you.

Sandy *[Gushingly]* Hello Ruth, it's simply wonderful to make your acquaintance.

Ruth Er, quite. Now – both of you have decided to build your own starter homes.

Doug That's right.

Sandy Too right, Ruthie.

Ruth You realise it's a big undertaking. Are you sure you are up to the challenge?

Sandy No problem, Ruthie Baby. I'm ready for anything.

Doug Yes, I'm prepared too, but I would be glad of any advice you can offer.

Ruth Okay. Well my first bit of advice is – location, location, location. It's vital that you choose the right site to build on.

Doug That sounds like good advice, Ruth, thanks.

Sandy Rock on baby.

Ruth That's right! Rock on. So, off you go and choose your location.
[Exit Ruth. The other two mime searching]

Commentator Sandy wasted little time in finding the place to build his house. He headed for the coast and found a great site - on the sand right next to the beach: ideal for all-year-round leisure activity. *[Mimes breathing in air, sunning self, etc]*
 Meanwhile Doug surveyed the ground carefully, *[Taps ground, measures, etc]* until he found the perfect site – on an area of solid rock. He drew up careful plans for his house *[Produces plans]* and then – Doug dug. *[Starts digging]*
 Sandy didn't bother with plans or digging. He simply put up his house as quickly as he could. *[Sandy builds house rapidly]*
 Meanwhile – Doug dug! *[Doug is still digging foundations]*
 Sandy finished the construction of his house in next to no time and then got down to some serious 'Leisure studies'. *[Gets deckchair, sunglasses, sunhat, etc]*
 Meanwhile – Doug dug. *[He is still digging]*
 At this time our House Doctor went back to see how Doug and Sandy were getting on. *[Enter Ruth who approaches Doug]*

Ruth Hi, Doug. Great location. This rock is really firm and you have laid solid foundations. Are you going to build upwards soon?

Doug Yes, I need to get on with it as summer is nearly over. But I should have the house finished before winter.

Ruth Great. Carry on the good work.. *[Leaves Doug, who starts building rest of his house, and goes over to Sandy]*
 Hi, Sandy, I see you've finished building already. You're a quick worker.

Sandy Piece of cake, Ruthie Babes, I don't know what all the fuss is about. Building is dead easy and I've found the perfect place in the sun.

Ruth Yes, your house is in a beautiful spot – right by the beach. There's just one tiny thing, however,

Sandy What's that, Ruthie Wuthie?

Ruth Well, it's usually reckoned that building on sand is not a good idea. It's okay when the sun shines but if it rains you run the risk of your house being swept away.

Sandy You said "If it rains", darling, but look at the sky: not a cloud. The weather's beautiful. It's not going to rain. I can dwell here and live life to the full. Life's a beach – and I've found mine. Location, location, location.

Ruth Well, don't say I didn't warn you. *[Exit Ruth]*

Commentator Meanwhile Doug finished his house built on solid rock. *[Doug completes task and admires his work]*
 While Sandy continued to sun himself – on the sand. *[Doug lies back in chair and falls asleep]*
 But – then it began to rain. *[Both put hand out as if feeling raindrops and move 'inside' house]*
 And it carried on raining. *[Both peer out at rain]*
 Doug was safe and secure in his house. The foundations he had dug on the rock held firm. *[Stamps on 'solid' floor]*
 But Sandy found that the sandy ground beneath his house was being washed away – and so was his house. *[Mimes feet slipping away beneath him]*
 He saw his place in the sun – his first rung on the property ladder – being washed away in the tide.

Sandy *[As if watching a stream flowing past]* I suppose I could play Poohsticks.

[Enter Ruth]

Ruth Well, that's it from Property Ladder for this week. But what an interesting programme it's been with plenty of lessons for those wanting to get their feet on the Property Ladder for themselves. Sandy found his place in the sun and enjoyed himself – while Doug dug.

But Sandy built on sand and his house was swept away.
Doug was wiser: he built on rock and his house held firm.
Which only goes to show that, when it comes to building, what
really matters is indeed - Location, location, location.

THE END