

Writing Sample: Futurama Script

INT. Planet Express Headquarters, conference room. Leela prepares Nibbler's lunch at the kitchenette with Nibbler chattering impatiently at her heels. She opens a comically large can labeled "Elk Thigh" and overturns the can as a large hunk of meat with a leg bone sticking out of it slowly slides out of the can, finally making a wet *plop* into Nibbler's too-small bowl. Leela puts the bowl on the floor and Nibbler immediately consumes the meat AND the bowl. A beat passes, and he burps up the bowl, then the leg bone. Zoidberg immediately grabs the leg bone and starts gnawing on it. Professor Farnsworth shouts from the other room.

Professor (O.S.)
Good news, everyone!

Everyone turns to see the Professor enter. The camera stays at about hip level alongside the Professor, hiding his upper body as he enters.

Professor
I've invented my
greatest invention yet!

Medium shot of the Professor. Around his head is a horizontal headband. Attached to the front of it is an extended accordion spring with a large cartoony gloved hand hanging limply from the end.

Professor
I call it, the Bad Idea
Filter!

Bender

You're too late
Professor, Fry already
slept with his own
Grandma! Hahaha!

Fry
Not cool, Bender. I
picked gum off your back
today.

Professor
I created it to stop my
rash of dumb inventions.
Here, let me demonstrate.

The Professor clears his throat and speaks in an announcing
voice to the room.

Professor
I should invent walking
sticks for snakes!

The large hand suddenly springs to life and slaps the Professor
across the face, knocking him swiftly to the ground.

Professor
Oomph!

Everyone silently watches as the Professor gets back to his feet.

Professor
Pretty cool, eh?

Leela
Actually yeah, that
would have come in handy
over the years.

Professor
It also works on anyone
within a five foot

radius.

Bender rushes up to the Professor.

Bender
Ooh! Ooh! I wanna try!

Bender immediately grabs Fry and stands Fry in front of him, facing the hand.

Bender
Fry, quick! Think of
your favorite ice cream
sundae!

Fry looks like he's genuinely pondering for a moment before the massive hand abruptly comes to life and slaps him hard to the ground. Bender laughs heartily. Fry responds meekly from the floor.

Fry
(distressed/sniffly)
What's wrong with butterscotch
and mayonnaise?

The hand enters from off frame to slap him hard across the floor.

Fry
Ow!!

Bender and the Professor stand indifferently above Fry when Bender addresses the Professor.

Bender
Hey that thing is pretty
great! Let me try.

Bender reaches for the headband but the hand slaps him hard off frame. Bender flies past Hermes and crashes into a filing system Hermes set up in the conference room, sending papers flying in all directions.

Hermes (gasp)
Sweet tin can of
Uzbekistan! My files!

Hermes walks over to the Professor, who still looks indifferent.

Hermes
Okay, Professor, time to
take that thing off.

As Hermes reaches for the device, the hand slaps him away as well, knocking him into Zoidberg who proceeds to choke on the Elk bone.

Chaos ensues as Leela, Amy, Scruffy, and Nibbler leap for the headband but each gets comically smacked aside. Wide shot of the room as the Professor remains the only individual left standing, the others writhing in pain on the floor.

Medium shot on the Professor, as he rubs his chin, pondering.

Professor
Hmm. Maybe building the
Bad Idea Detector wasn't
a great idea after a--

Before he can finish his thought, the hand slaps the Professor hard and he flies out of frame.