

How's it going? **Long time no see.**
Good to see you.

Throw in a lighter **while you're at it.**

The boys **and I were just having**
a philosophical discussion.

I suppose it all **goes back to** Queen Elizabeth.

Have you ever heard of the guy who
threw his coat down over the puddle **so**
this lady didn't get her feet wet?

I used to smoke Raleigh cigarettes, too. They
came with a free gift coupon in every pack.

Since he was **a favorite of the**
Queen's – he used to **call** her Queen
Bess – smoking **caught on** as a fashion.

Old Bess **must have shared** a
cigarette **or two** with Sir Walter.

Once he **made a bet** with her that he could
actually **measure** the weight of smoke. –
You mean, **weigh** smoke? **You can't do**
that. It's like weighing air.

What he did was first he took a cigar and **put** it on a balance and weighed it. Then he **lit up** and smoked the cigar, **making sure** the ashes all **ended up** in the balance pan. When he **was done**, he **put** the butt into the pan **along with** the ashes and weighed what was there.

That's **the kind of guy** we **need to take over** the Mets.

He was smart, **all right**. But **not smart enough, it turned out**. He **ended up having his head chopped off** twenty years **later**.

But that's a different story. -- **You're gonna have to** tell us that one **some day**.

Take care of yourself, and **don't do anything I wouldn't do**. – I wouldn't **think of it**. **See you around**, fellas.

He and I go back a long time.

I've seen him around. He comes in here **a lot**, doesn't he? -- **Couple of times a week**.

He's published three or four books. But nothing now **for the past few years.**

What's the matter? Did he **run out of** ideas?

Four people **got killed.** One of them was Paul's wife. The poor guy, he **hasn't been** the same **since.**

The funny thing was, she stopped **in here just before** it happened. To **stock up on** cigars for him.

I sometimes **think** that if she **hadn't given** me exact **change** that day, or if the store **had been** a little more **crowded,** it **would have taken** her a few **more** seconds to get out of here, and then maybe she **wouldn't have been hit by** that bullet.

She'd still be **alive,** the baby **would have been born,** and Paul **would be sitting** at home writing another book **instead of wandering** the streets with a **hangover...**