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A Sticky Problem

The Invention of the Band-Aid

Setting: Early 1900's era kitchen with table and stove,

Props:

- cutting board and knife,
- linen or cotton dish towel
- roll of surgical tape
- roll of gauze
- vegetables
- pot with lid
- pot holder
- scissors

*Josephine Dickson stands at the table chopping vegetables.
She has 3 or 4 fingers wrapped with gauze and tape.*

Josephine *(chops a few times and then misses cutting her finger)*
Ouch! Ouchie, ouch ouch!
(dances around kitchen holding hurt finger)
Earl! Earl, I need you!

Earl Dickson runs in

Earl Oh, Josephine, not again! *(pause)* As usual, I came prepared. *(shows roll of gauze, tape and scissors)* Here, let me wrap some gauze around it. *(unrolls gauze and cuts a short piece, wraps finger)* There we are, next some tape. *(pulls out a strip of surgical tape, cuts and wraps around gauze)*

This process should be exaggerated to make the point of how awkward it is.

O.K., all fixed! You know, it's a good thing that I work for a company that makes this tape and gauze or we would go bankrupt buying enough for every time you cut yourself!

Josephine I know, I just seem to be accident prone! *(picks up knife to continue chopping)*

Earl Here, let me finish chopping. You go do something safe!

Josephine O.k., thanks. I'll just check the water to see if it's ready. *(goes to pick up the lid of the pot on the stove, burns hand, drops lid on floor)*
Ouch! Ouchie, ouch ouch! *(dances around holding hand)*



Earl Good grief, Josephine, nothing is safe for you! Come here and I'll wrap it up. *(exaggerating process again with larger amounts of gauze and tape)* Some more gauze lots of tape there you go all done.

Josephine *(appreciatively)* Oh, thank you Earl. What would I ever do without you? Here, let me pick up that lid.

Earl *(a little panicky)* Use a pot holder!

Josephine O.K. *(bends down to pick up lid and smacks her head on the table)* Ouch! Ouchie, ouch ouch! *(hops around holding head)*

Earl *(smacks forehead in exasperation)* Josephine, how can I go off to work and leave you here alone? Every day I worry while I'm away because you can't bind up your cuts and scrapes by yourself.

Josephine I know. Some days I think I should just stay in bed until you get home. I'm such a klutz!

Earl This is silly. It is 1920 after all. You'd think that in this modern era someone would have come up with a way for a person to cover up their own little wounds!

Josephine Well isn't that the kind of thing that your company, Johnson and Johnson, does? You're smart, I bet you could figure it out.

Earl Hmmmm, perhaps. *(scratching head)* Let me think. What's the hardest part about patching yourself up?

Josephine Well, I can get the gauze wrapped around, but I can't hold it there, cut it with the scissors, and get the surgical tape unrolled. The gauze just falls off before I can tape it on. It's simply impossible to do it all with one hand.

Earl Alright then, let's start with the tape.

Josephine Ouch! Ouchie, ouch ouch! *(Earl startled, turns to look at her, thinking she's hurt again)* Do you know how that tape would feel on a cut?



Earl No, no, I don't mean to put the tape on the wound yet! I mean let's cut a piece of the tape first. *(cuts short piece from roll of surgical tape)* Now we need the gauze so the tape doesn't stick to the sore part. *(cuts a piece of gauze and folds it to make a pad the width of the tape)* So, now we stick this on the tape and it's ready to go! *(picks it up)* Ta-da! O.k. Josephine - try it out, Can you wrap that around your finger by yourself?

Josephine Let me see. *(takes tape, places gauze on finger and wraps tape around it)* It works! That's so easy! But I couldn't make that if I was dripping blood all over the place.

Earl No, of course not - but what if you could buy them ready made like that?

Josephine *(not impressed)* I think the sticky ends would get all messed up!

Earl Yes, you're right. *(taps finger on lips looking around kitchen while thinking)* Eureka! I've got it! *(makes another strip of tape with a pad of gauze)* Hand me that tea towel over there. *(cuts out strip of material the size of the tape, places piece over full length of tape, picks it up and shows Josephine)* See? Now it could go in a box without getting all stuck up and when you need it, you just pull the covering off the tape and you're all set to go!

Josephine I knew you were brilliant Earl! Do you think your company will make them?

Earl Sure, why not? We just need a catchy name.....

Josephine Well, the tape is a kind of band.

Earl And it gives you aid it aids you to put it on.....

Josephine and Earl *(together)* Band-Aid!

Earl Perfect! *(proudly)* I, Earl Dickson, have just invented the Band-Aid!



Josephine *(clapping for him)* Well done Earl! You'll be famous!

Josephine twirls around with her arms out and hits Earl in the nose.

Earl *(holding nose, hopping around)* Ouch! Ouchie, ouch ouch!

Josephine Sorry! Need a Band-Aid?

CURTAIN

