



*He started to pull out some string.*

The young woman was next to the big washing machine. Mr Bean saw her putting some clothes into it. The launderette manager was busy in his little office.

‘Nobody’s watching me,’ thought Mr Bean. ‘Good.’

He opened the front of his trousers. Then he started to pull out some string.

The young woman turned suddenly and saw Mr Bean pulling the string out of his trousers.

‘What *is* that man doing?’ she thought.

Mr Bean saw her looking and turned away quickly.

But now the older woman looked at him. Her eyes opened wide. ‘That’s a strange man,’ the woman thought. ‘He’s got *string* inside his trousers!’

On the end of the string was some paper, and inside the paper was a one-pound coin. Mr Bean smiled. He took the coin out of

the paper and put it on the top of the washing machine. Then he put the five-pence coin back into his jacket.

Next, he opened the washing machine.

A man came into the launderette with a bag of dirty clothes under his arm. He was young and strong. When he saw Mr Bean, he smiled. But it wasn’t a nice smile. He didn’t say ‘Hello’ or ‘Good morning’. He pushed Mr Bean away from the washing machine.

‘What—!’ began Mr Bean.

Then the young man pushed Mr Bean’s one-pound coins on to the next machine.

Mr Bean was angry. He turned round to speak angrily – but then he saw the young man taking a white karate suit out of his bag.

‘A karate suit!’ thought Mr Bean. ‘So he can fight. Perhaps I won’t say anything.’



*‘A karate suit!’*