THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM IS IN A FERMENT.
THE PREFECT OF GAUL, OVIDUS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMISPLUS.
THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN...

PRESENT...
PILUM!...

AYE, PREFECT!
THIS IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME!

AYE, CENTURION!
YOU'RE TELLING ME!

AND NOW FOR THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, CENTURION!
I'M GOING TO RUME ON LEAVE, AND CUSTOM DECREES THAT I TAKE CAESAR A HANDSOME PRESENT...
SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND VERY VALUABLE...

...I DID THINK OF TAKING HIM A PRESENT FROM LUTETIA, MAYBE A MARBLE MEMO TABLET FOR HIM TO CARVE DOWN HIS APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT'S TOO ORDINARY...

THEN I HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!
WHY NOT TAKE CAESAR ONE OF THE INVINCIBLE GAULS FROM HEREAFT?

WHAT?!

BUT, PREFECT, ABOUT THESE INVINCIBLE GAULS ... THERE'S JUST ONE SNAG!

ONE SNAG?

WELL, WHAT IS IT?

THEY HAPPEN TO BE INVINCIBLE!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM SO VALUABLE!
GET ME ONE OF THESE GAULS, AND YOU WON'T REGRET IT!

THERE'S CERTAINLY ONE WHO'S A BIT MORE HARMLESS THAN THE OTHERS ... CACOFONIX
THE BARD. HE OFTEN GOES FOR WALKS IN THE FOREST BY HIMSELF LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION.

EXCELLENT! I MUST HAVE THIS BARD--AND FAST!

AND IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE ... GOOSEY, ASTERIX, I'M GOING FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST!

GOODBYE, CAOCOFONIX!
Boor! The Boors appreciate my music better than you!

That's only natural. You sing like a pig!

In the forest...

Go and capture a bard, go and capture a bard...it's easy to say that!

I'm always picked on to volunteer for dangerous missions! It's not fair!!

Quiet! I heard a nose! Take cover!

This will be a good place to sing...

These Gallic secret weapons ought to be banned by the Helvetia Convention!

maybe it's because I'm Armoricano...
RIGHT! I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO COUNTER THE BARD'S SECRET WEAPON... WE ALL STUFF OUR EARS

WHAT WITH?

PARSLEY, THERE'S PLENTY OF IT AROUND

I DON'T FANCY THAT, I'LL FEEL LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A BUTCHER'S SHOP.

NOW BACK INTO AMBUSH! WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL WE ALL ATTACK THE BARD!

NOT UP YOUR NOSE, IDIOT!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

NOW... WHAT SHALL I SING NEXT?

COME ON, BOYS!

A FAN! AT LAST! SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES GOOD MUSIC! STOP RIGHT THERE, FRIEND. I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A RECITAL!

?? THE... THE OTHERS... THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW ME!

?? WHAT DID HE... I'M ONLY A BARD IN A GIANT'S CAGE...

STOP! STOP! I CAN'T BEAR IT! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

WELL? COULDN'T YOU HEAR ME SHOUTING, YOU COWARDLY LOT?

PARDON?
Take that parsley out of your ears!

Aye! Mission accomplished! I've captured the Gaulish bard at the risk of our lives, especially mine!

Excellent! Excellent!

There, it wasn't all that difficult...

The trouble is we can now expect reprisals from the others...

Oh...er...well, yes...well, I really must be going! Fetch my litter! The prisoner and I will leave at once to go on board the galley for Rome...

Meanwhile...

That's good news. But I don't suppose it'll be long.

Ourel! Our bard Cacofonix hasn't come back yet.

Asterix! Asterix! I saw some Romans capturing Cacofonix!

Are you sure, Picannix?

I was out hunting wild piglets in the forest, and I saw it all!

What a funny idea of the Romans! Whyever should they want to lumber themselves with Cacofonix?

Anyway, we must avenge this insult! I'm off to tell our chief Vitalstatistix the news!
O Vitalstatistix, our hard Califonix has disappeared!

You're just saying that to please me.

The Romans have captured him!

What?

By Toutatis! Even if it is a funny idea of the Romans, that's not playing fair! We can't have this sort of thing!

A Gaul must know how to make his enemy respect him! We shall organize a punitive expedition! Let the Druid prepare the magic potion!

Soon afterwards the Gaulish warriors are drinking the magic potion which gives them invincible strength...

No, Obelix! Not you! I've already told you you don't need any potion! You're strong enough as you are.

What, me strong? Not a bit of it! I'm as weak as anything!

Go on! I'll give you this nice menhir!

No, no and for the third time no!

Silence! Our chief Vitalstatistix is going to make a speech!

No friends Gauls, countrymen! We must give these Romans a good lesson by Toutatis!

And remember, we have nothing to fear but the sky falling on our heads!

In the Roman camp of Compendium the troops have been alerted...

And remember, Romans, we have nothing to fear but the Gauls!
“This is the first time Cacofonix has ever given us any entertainment!”

I say, Asterix! How about a bet? The one who knocks out most legionaries wins, and we have to collect their helmets as proof.

At this very moment, at Compendium...

Put your helmets on!!!

Help! They’re coming!

And inside the camp we observe the impressive spectacle of legionaries manoeuvring in accordance with the famous precision of the Roman army...

Cohorts into three lines... form!

The Gauls! Sound the alarm!

Sound the horns, trumpets and bucinas!

Pilum at the ready!

Manoeuvre, by Jupiter!!!

We can’t! The Gauls are in the way!

WHOOOOOSH!
THE BATTLE IS SHORT...

"Clinkclankclonk! Biff!"

BANG!

I CAN'T FIND CACOFONIX ANYWHERE—
AHR, THERE'S THE ROMAN COMMANDER!

BANG! Bingo!

I SHALL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

WANT ME TO THUMP YOU?

OH ALL RIGHT! ALL IS LOST!
I SURRENDER! ALEA JACTA EST!

AND LET IT BE A LESSON TO YOU!
NOW, GIVE US BACK OUR BARD, AND
DON'T DO IT AGAIN!

THE FACT IS... YOUR BARD ISN'T HERE ANY
MORE. AT THIS MOMENT HE'S ON BOARD A GALLEY,
SAILING FOR ROME TO BE GIVEN TO CAESAR
AS A PRESENT...

WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME...

A PRESENT? THAT'S A REALLYY
FUNNY IDEA!

LOOK AT THIS ASTERIX! I'M SURE I'VE WON OUR BET!
AND ONE LEGIONARY WAS FIGHTING BARE-HEADED
TOO, IT'S AGAINST ALL THE RULES OF WARFARE TO
GO INTO BATTLE IMPROPERLY DRESSED. I'VE A
GOOD MIND TO REPORT HIM!

THE GAULS WITHDRAW,
LEAVING BEHIND THEM THE
AFTERMATH OF BATTLE...

THEY REALLY LET US HAVE IT, EH,
SIR?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, GET THIS
CAMP BACK INTO ORDER!!! WHAT'S
ALL THIS UNTIDINESS IN AID OF?
AND DON'T ANYONE EVER MENTION
THIS BATTLE TO ME AGAIN!!!
POOR CACOFONIX, PRISONER ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY!

HE WAS SO NICE! SCRUNCH! SO WELL Brought up! NEVER SANG WITH HIS MOUTH FULL! SCRUNCH! PITY HE DIDN'T EAT MUCH... SCRUNCH!

MEANWHILE...

I CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE YOU TO CAESAR!

YOUR CAESAR DOESN'T DESERVE ME, ROMAN!

MAKE THEM ROW FASTER!

BONG! BONG!

STOP HAVING THOSE UNHAPPY SOULS WHIPPED, ROMAN! LOOSEN SOME OF MY BONDS! I WILL SING THEM A SONG TO LIVEN THEM UP!

BONG!

CRACK!

CRACK!

?!?

farewell and adieu to you fair Celtic ladies...

farewell and adieu to you ladies of Gaul...

STOP! MERCY!

WE'D RATHER HAVE THE WHIP!

OUR WORK ISN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES, BUT THIS IS INHUMAN! IF THE GAUL WILL SHUT UP WE PROMISE TO ROW OUR HARDEST!

YOU IGNORANT LOT! YOU BRUTES! YOU'LL ALL END UP IN THE... WELL, YOU ALREADY HAVE!

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF CAESAR REALLY DOES DESERVE THIS...
OEBELIX! WE MUST GO TO ROME AND RESCUE CAHOOFONIX!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME... SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!
...BUT HOW DO WE GET THERE?
IT'S A LONG WAY SCRUNCH!

AND SO WE'LL GO DOWN TO THE BEACH AND TAKE THE FIRST BOAT FOR ROME!

IT'S RISKY, ASTERIX, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT; WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR BARRACKS IN THE LURCH!
HE SINGS ATROCIOUSLY, BUT HE'S A GOOD SORT...

AN EXCELLENT SORT!

YOU COME WITH ME, ASTERIX, AND I'LL MAKE YOU A GOURD OF MAGIC POTION...

I'LL JUST GO AND FIND SOMEONE TO DELIVER MY MENHIRS WHILE I'M AWAY...

I DON'T KNOW THAT I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS SORT OF WORK.

I'M Relying ON YOU; YOU NEEDN'T DELIVER MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME TO START WITH.

COME ON, OEBELIX, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!

COME ON, ASTERIX!

TAKING CARE!

DON'T WORRY IF THE ROMANS AIN'T NICE TO US; WE'LL LEAVE THEIR CITY FULL OF RUINS!

ASTERIX, WHAT'S THE LATIN FOR WILD BOAR?

SINGULARS PORCUS, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE THEM IN ROME.

NOW WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A SHIP...

LET'S HAVE A BET WHILE WE WAIT. WE SEE HOW MANY DONZ OYSTERS WE CAN EAT, AND THE ONE WHO EATS MOST WINS A SINGULARS PORCUS!

LOOK! A SHIP!

WE'RE IN LUCK!

WHY DON'T WE WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE? THEN WE COULD HAVE OUR BET!
A Sail on the Horizon, Mr. Chairman!

Sure enough, on board the pirate galley...
Shiver me timbers, we've got 'em, me hearty's, pull away! That heavy Phoenician ship with all it's cargo will never escape us!

Let's push the boat out!

My dear fellow directors, I think we shall be obliged to fight...

No no, Mr. Chairman! Our contract says we have to row, but there's nothing in the small print about fighting!

Now, I suggest we change the contract, I have an important modification to make.

But me too!

We can't count on these chatter boxes to fight. We'll have to deal with this on our own.

Goodbye! There'll be more room! Look, here come the pirates, poor things!

They're wearing helmets! We can have another bet like we did with the legonaries!

Giddy goat's horns, we'll make just one mouthful of them!

Vanitas, vanita et omnia vanitas!
AT 'EM HEARTIES!

BOING!

COME ON, OBEIX!

OO, YES!

WHAM!

BONK!

HEY! THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES! JUMPING INTO THE SEA IS AGAINST THE RULES!

NO! NO!

HI, NO!

CREAACK!

I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE Fought ON A BOAT... MAKES A NICE CHANGE...

I SAY, WOULD YOU LEND ME THAT ONE TO FINISH OFF?

NOOOOO!

There, that's that, we'd better get back to the Phoenicians!

I thought they had a bigger crew on these galleys.

And when our friends have left the galley...

Those Gauls never miss the boat.
We’re nearing the end of our voyage. Rome is a few hours’ walk from the place where we’re going to land...

We’ll be staying here for a while to buy and sell goods. If you finish your business in time we’ll take you back to Gaul...

Thanks, Ekonomy-kris!

Hoist the flag!

Sale
Final clearance

Just look at this obelisk. If the roads are so wide and straight here, what must it be like in Rome?

We’re there!

Now about that helmet game again? We could have a lovely fight with all these Romans! We must start making inquiries and I think see what we need!
Well, so we've got a date at Instantmix's place this evening. What do we do till then?

We could go back and have some more beer.

The baths! I've often heard about the Roman baths! Let's go and have a bath!

Go and get undressed in the apodyteria.

That must mean the changing room...

This way, noble lords!

Is it us he means?

We haven't got much on. I hope we don't catch cold!

It's hot in here! I wonder if we could open a window.

Look, Gauf! Fatuous! You're always on the lookout for gladiators — what do you think of those two men?

Interesting, especially the fat one!

Let's try in here... it may be cooler.

This was a funny idea of your asteaxon, by Toutatis!

He said, by Toutatis, they're Gauls...

We may be hard-boiled, but this is overdoing it!

You seem to be strangers here. I'll guide you round the baths. I come here regularly for my health, though it is a bit of a sweat...

You should go to the frigidarium and dive into the pool of icy water.

Icy water? I'm on my way.

Watch me dive, Asterix! Watch me dive!
SPLOSH!

AND NOW IT IS CUSTOMARY TO HAVE SOME MASSAGE

TARGETS?

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BEAT UP MY MASSEURS! THEY'RE HORRIBLY EXPENSIVE THIS SEASON!

HE STARTED IT!

THAT'S RIGHT! I SAW HIM!

WHAT STRENGTH!

...AND GO AND HAVE A BATH SOMEWHERE ELSE!

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR OUR DATE NOW...

THIS IS WHERE INSTANTMIX LIVES - IT'S CALLED AN INSULA. THAT'S A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE ON TOP OF EACH OTHER...

I MUST HAVE THESE TWO MEN! I'M GOING TO GET HELP

INSTANTMIX LIVES ON THE THIRD FLOOR...
I said KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

ER... DOES INSTANTMIX LIVE HERE?

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

I'LL JUST KNOCK...

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

COME ALONG IN...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALENDAS!

DON'T TOUCH ANY MORE DOORS!

YOU KEEP ON SHOUTING! I DIDN'T SHOUT AT YOU WHEN YOU GOT US INTO HOT WATER JUST NOW, DID I?

WHAT ABOUT MY DOOR? YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?

COME ALONG IN...

LET'S HAVE A BIT OF PEACE! WE'RE TRYING TO SLEEP, BY JUPITER!

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALENDAS!

NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE...

OH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FLAT - CUBICULUM, KITCHEN, TRICLINIUM, AND YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE AQUEDUCT FOR WATER...

AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS SORT OF PLACE?

OH, THESE ARE GLC FLATS - GREATER LATIN COUNCIL...
WE'LL RESCUE HIM!

YOU CAN'T, THE BARD'S BEEN SHUT UP IN A CELL IN THE CIRCUS... AND IT'S A MAXIMUM SECURITY CIRCUS!

BUT THERE'S WORSE TO COME. THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU TO BE CAREFUL. YOU MUST BE INDOMITABLE GAULS LIKE THE BARD! YOU MUST FLEE FROM ROME!

CALS FATUOUS, WHO TRAINS THE GLADIATORS, IS LOOKING FOR MEN FOR THE GAMES... AND INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND!

WE WILL RESCUE OUR BARD!

YOU ACT THE FINE LADY AND YOU CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SLAVE TO DO THE HOUSEWORK!

SO I AM A FINE LADY! SO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FINE LADY HAS TO SAY TO YOU?

BY JUNO, IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M CALLING THE WATCH!

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

THERE THEY ARE!

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

GOODY!

LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING NEW! LOOK, I DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM! I SHAKE THEM! IT LASTS LONGER THAT WAY!

ALL RIGHT, OBELIX, PUT HIM DOWN NOW!

WILL YOU BE QUIET OUT THERE IN THE ROAD! WE CAN'T HEAR OURSELVES SHOUT IN HERE!
I must have those two men! Jump to it, everyone!

And next morning...

Sleep well, Asterix?

Yes, thank you, Obelix. Let's go and have breakfast now.

We must try to get into conversation with one of the circus guards and find out exactly where Cacofonix is imprisoned.

Waiter! Have you by any chance got some parsley?

Parsley? What for?

For putting in my ears! I've got a prisoner who keeps on singing something horrible.

That's Cacofonix.

The description fits anyway!
LET'S TRY A FEW CRAFTY QUESTIONS ON THIS GUARD. WE MUSTN'T AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS...

NO...

HEY YOU! WHERE'S CACOFONIX IMPRISONED?

?!

CELL XVIII. FIRST BASEMENT DOWN. BUT IT'S A SECRET!

THERE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

AND NOW FOR THE CIRCUS. I'LL DRINK A LITTLE MAGIC POTION

HERE'S MY PLAN. WE KNOCK DOWN EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING UNTIL WE FIND CACOFONIX AND THEN WE MAKE OFF WITH HIM!

THAT'S A CLEVER PLAN!

HALT! NO...

ENTRY!

CELL XVII. WE'RE GETTING WARM!

OUR BET ABOUT THE HELMETS IS STILL ON, ISN'T IT?

CELL XVIII IS EMPTY!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
WHERE'S THE BARD, GUARD? THEY CHANGED HIS CELL. HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE THIRD BASEMENT DOWN. NO ONE COULD BEAR TO HEAR HIM ANY MORE. PLEASE WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP HITTING!

COME ON, THEN!

NO! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!

SOUND THE ALARM!

...EXIT!

LET'S GO AND ASK OUR FRIEND INSTANTNIX'S ADVICE...

WELL, WHAT WERE THOSE TWO AFTER ANYWAY?

SOON AFTERWARDS...

I WARNED YOU! ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THAT CIRCUS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HOUSE OF GAULS FATUOIS...

TWO GAULS TRYING TO RESCUE THE BARD? THOSE MUST CERTAINLY BE MY MEN, AND THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE INVINCIBLE GAULS.

SOON AFTERWARDS...

I WANT THE WHOLE STAFF TO COMB THE CITY IN GROUPS OF THREE! I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO GAULS! BRING THEM TO ME!

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, PUT UP NOTICES EVERYWHERE! I'M OFFERING 10,000 SESTERTIUS TO ANYONE WHO CAPTURES THESE TWO INVINCIBLE GAULS!

YES, BOSS!

GAULISE RESTAURANT

THERE THEY ARE!
Let’s get them!

Splat! What Instant Mix told us...

Yes, hearing things like that makes me come over all faint...

He said only condemned men, lions and gladiators get into the circus...

Suppose we dressed up as lions?

Here they come!

You’re too fat for a lion!

If only I’d known...

All the same, we must save our bard!

Of course! Let’s beat it! Here come the cops!

Now, now, now, what’s all this here? You come along quietly to the station and no funny business—we’re seven to two!

Let’s get back to our inn!

Forward, men... ouff!

I say, Asterix, don’t you think it’s funny, all these people attacking us?

People? What people?
AND HOW DO WE GET TO BE GLADIATORS?

WE'LL ASK A ROMAN... THE ONLY ONE WE KNOW IS THAT ONE WHO HAS A LOT OF BATHS. LET'S GO TO THE BATHS!

AND OUTSIDE THE BATHS...

10,000 SESTERTII... THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY!

I COULD JUST DO WITH THAT!

THERMAE

LOOK!

I SAW THEM FIRST!

NO, ME!

IT'S A LIE! THE 10,000 SESTERTII ARE MINE!

?! ?!

HERE, LET US BY! WE'RE IN A HURRY

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

OH, SO IT'S YOU TWO BACK AGAIN. I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

OI! TAKE YOUR SANDALS OFF IF YOU WANT TO COME IN THE BATH!

SPLOSH!
I MUST FIRST WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE SO THAT THEY'LL SIGN THE CONTRACT WHICH WILL GET THEM INTO MY HOT LITTLE HANDS...

COME ALONG IN... WE'LL HAVE A LIGHT MEAL.

NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE!

COULDN'T WE HAVE A HEAVY MEAL INSTEAD?

JUST TASTE THESE PASTIES! THEY'RE A NEW RECIPE - THEY COST A FORTUNE!

NIGHTINGALE'S TONGUES IMPORTED FROM THE NORTH OF GAUL, STURGEONS' EGGS FROM THE FARthest BARBARIANLANDS, COCKROACHES' JUMPS FROM MONJOLA...

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

GULP!

SALTY

RIGHT! THE FUNS OVER, BY JUPITER! MAKE YOUR MARKS ON THESE CONTRACTS!

EXCELLENT! UP YOU GET! INSALUBRIUS!

INSALUBRIUS, HERE ARE THE TWO NEW GLADIATORS! TRAIN THEM FOR THE CIRCUS - AND JUMP TO IT!

THEY'LL JUMP TO IT ALL RIGHT, LANISTA, THEY'LL JUMP TO IT!

I SAY, ASTERIX, DO YOU THINK THE LIGHT MEALS OVER?

SALTY! HUH! THESE BARBARIANS DON'T APPRECIATE GOOD FOOD, BRING ME THE GIBLET JAM!
All right! I get the message.

Inslubrius is off!

But he hasn't finished our training!

I know a very good game! I ask questions and you have to answer without saying yes, no, black or white. Anyone who says any of those words is out. All right?

Oh yes! Oh yes! Oh yes!

You're out!

No!

You're out again!

It's not fair. I'm going to sulk!

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Meanwhile...

I want my wages. I'm packing it in! Those Gauls are too much for me. I'm going back to my father's lace factory!

Ho, ho! Let's have a look at these amazing recruits who managed to get the terrible Inslubrius down!

What the...

What are you doing?

We're playing a game. It's great fun. Want to join in?

No!

I don't pay you for games like that!!!

All right then, what about Charades?
AND YOU, GLADIATORS, GET BACK TO YOUR TRAINING. I HAVE TO GO AND SEE CAESAR....

I SAY, OBELIX, SUPPOSE WE TOOK A LITTLE STROLL ROUND TOWN TOO?

NOT A BAD IDEA!

HALT, GLADIATORS! YOU AREN'T ALLOWED OUT OF YOUR QUARTERS!

PUT THAT HEMET DOWN, OBLIX! YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF THAT SILLY HABIT!

WHAT FOR? IT DOESN'T HURT ANYONE!

THOSE MODERN CITIES ARE ALL VERY WELL, BUT THEY'RE NOT WHAT I CALL FRIENDLY.

LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE WHERE ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE READING THAT NOTICE!

MEANWHILE......

HERE'S THE PROGRAMME FOR THE GAMES, O CAESAR. I'VE HAD THESE TABLETS PUT UP ALL OVER ROME!

IF THE PEOPLE LIKE THE GAMES, I SHALL TREAT YOU GENEROUSLY. IF NOT, THE LIONS... GET THE TREAT!

GIRAND CIRCUS
GAMES
IMPERIAL CAESAR'S PHANTOMS
CHARIOT RACES
GAULISH BARD
THROWN TO THE LIONS
GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS
WITH ASTÉRIX & OBÉLiX
THE INDOMITABLE GALLO
THE INDOMITABLE GALLO

NOT BAD... BUT YOU'D BETTER NOT LET THE GAULS ESCAPE. THEY'RE THE STAR ATTRACTION.

DON'T WORRY, O CAESAR. THEY'RE SAFELY LOCKED AWAY!

AT LAST, I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY THAT LITTLE FARM AT ALBUM IN THE PROVINCE OF STÉRNUM.

LOOK! IF IT ISN'T GOOD OLD PATOU!!

SO IT IS! THERE'S A BIT OF LUCK!
WH... WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE GOT OUT??

NOT A BAD PROGRAMME, BUT WE'LL WANT TO MAKE A FEW ALTERATIONS...

HE DOES SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE US! AND PLEASED!

YOU TURNED UP JUST AT THE RIGHT MOMENT. WE WERE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE TO SHOW US THE TOWN!

A GUI... A GUI... A GUIDE!

KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP... THE MAIN THING IS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THEM...

ALL RIGHT

PITY WE CAN'T TAKE PICTURES OF ALL THIS BACK TO GAUL WITH US...

AND THIS IS THE FORUM

YOU SEEM VERY SURE YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL OF COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT US!

??

SUPPOSE I WENT CARVING MY NAME ON YOUR PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE FOR DINNER!

AND NO BORING LITTLE PASTIES THIS TIME - JUST BOARS!

DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED BY EVERYONE - WELL, NEARLY EVERYONE...

YUM! GULP! SCRATCH!

PATIENCE, PATIENCE! THEY'LL BE LAUGHING THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR MEALS IN THE ARENA.

I SHOULD HAVE HAD A BOAR FOR THE ROAD...

COMES ALONG, IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS! I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME?

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW HOW TO ENTERTAIN. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OBELIX?
I wonder if the public really likes these commercial breaks?

Maybe not, but they pay for the sand in the arena.

Now you're going to see something... the chariot races are beginning!

But there's an emergency backstage...

Why isn't he in his chariot?

He's ill. He drank Jara wine before coming.

Ooooooooh!

Don't worry, we'll help you out!

The Gauls!

You should be locked up with the other gladiators! It's against the rules!

We wanted to see the show... so you're short of a chariot driver? We're not on yet - we'll step in!

Come on, Obelix!

Goody! Goody!

I'll drive. You shove off anyone who comes too close, right?

Right!

Two men on a two-wheeler? It's disgraceful! I don't care for these flights of fancy, Caius Fatuus!
I CAN AND I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! IS IT GOING ON LIKE THIS? IF SO I'LL EAT YOU MYSELF IF THE LIONS HAVEN'T GOT OVER THEIR FRIGHT!

OH, THE SERIOUS PART'S COMING NEXT... AND NOW WE PRESENT THE GLADIATORS! BLOOD, MORTAL COMBAT, SAVAGERY, THE LOT...

LET'S HOPE SO, FOR YOUR SAKE... OR ELSE...

That's settled then? You let me do the talking and I'll fix everything.

EE-AI-ADDIO!

Ave Caesar! Morituri te salutant!

Hi, Julius, old boy!

Oh no! They really are not very polite!

Let the fighting begin... before I lose my temper!

Just a minute, there's a change in the programme. The gladiators have a new game to show you. We feel sure it will amuse you all!

Throw your weapons down!

Clang! Clonk! Tag.

That's a good start!
The mirror in the middle asks the questions and the others have to reply without saying the words 'yes,' 'no,' 'black,' or 'white.' If they do, they're out.

**You, Thracian! What colour is sand?**

**It's light!**

**You said white!**

**No, I did not! I didn't say white!**

**You've lost! You've lost! You're out!**

**Excuse me! I have the right to appeal to Caesar!**

**Are you trying to make a fool of me, by Jupiter? The biggest circus in Rome, 250,000 spectators, among them Julius Caesar himself—all this just to watch halfwits playing silly atrium games! Get fighting!!!**
Oh, so you want to make fun of me, Gauls? Very well! Send in a cohort of my best legionaries!!

So you want to see some fighting, Roman? Then you shall! Send in some of your crack legionaries. My friend Obelix and I will deal with them. Leave those other poor devils alone!

I'll just finish off the magic potion...

Well, are they coming or do we have to go and fetch them?

Good, here they come, all with their tin hats on!

Unarmed! I want to prolong the pleasure! I want to see you flatten these two Gauls with your bare hands!

I protest! It won't be a fair fight if they're unarmed!

Bong! Bang! Bing! You coming? I've started already!
I ask you to free the Bard we came to rescue, and let us go home to Gaul before we have to beat your army up again...

And I have one last favour to ask you, Julius...

You saw that's not a bad programme, eh?

Lend us Gauls fatuous, the gladiator trainer for our journey back to Gaul. We'll send him back by return.

Granted, by Jupiter!

But... but...

What are you going to do with me?

We're going to teach you a little lesson, by belengos!

Long live the Gauls! Long live the gladiators! Long live Caesar!

No fear! I'm not singing for any more Roman barbarians, and moreover I'm taking no further interest in the matter.

Hey, where are the ruins? Didn't a house fall on me?
AND AFTER A FEW HOURS WALK...

O EKONOMIKRIS, PHOENICIAN MERCHANT, WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND TAKE US BACK TO GAUL?

MY OLD FRIENDS, THE GAULS!!

COME ABOARD, FRIENDS! BUSINESS WAS GOOD. I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING, AND NOW I HAVE TO STOCK UP AGAIN!

WHO'S THIS?

A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOUR ROWING PARTNERS!

DO I... DO I HAVE TO ROW ALL BY MYSELF? ALL THE WAY BACK TO GAUL?

THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO DO A DIRTY JOB AND LIVE OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSCLE!

WHY DON'T I SING A LITTLE, SOMETHING TO LIVEN HIM UP?

HE'S GREAT!

WHAT AN OARSMAN!

HEAR! HEAR!

NOOOO!

I FEEL WE MIGHT MAKE THIS ROMAN A PARTNER!

AN EXCELLENT NOTION, MR. CHAIRMAN!

The voyage is uneventful, except for a skirmish with the pirates...

CHEER UP, CAP'N. WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!
AT LAST WE HEAR THE LONG AWAITED SHOUT...

GAUL!!!

HURRAH, BY TOUTATIS!

RIGHT... OFF WE GO! PARTNERS? LET'S SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE ON ITS WAY!

THANKS FOR THE TRIP, EKONOMIKRIΣ. PROMISE TO TAKE THE ROMAN HOME SAFE AND SOUND AND NOT SELL HIM ON THE WAY!

WHAT, SELL A PARTNER? A FRIEND?

WE'RE VERY FOND OF CAUS PATÉSUS. HE KEEPS US ALL GONG!

THE GAULISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A GREAT FEAST... AND BUT FOR THE FACT THAT CACORNIX WAS THE INVOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE GIVEN THEM A SONG...

THE END