

TWENTY YEARS

Clerk: Order! Order! Silence! Please be upstanding for his honour, the Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates! (Enter Chairman)

CHAIRMAN

1 I'm the Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates.
Please may we now proceed?
In the case of the Crown versus Mr Toad
I think we are all agreed.

2 In view of the clearest evidence
His guilt is plain to see.
Now it only remains for the court to choose
The maximum penalty.

CHORUS ALL (All court rise to sing:)
*Twenty years! Twenty years!
For this terrible crime.
Twenty years! Twenty years!
It's a very long time
To be locked up, banged up, hung out to dry,
Twenty years behind bars
For the rest of his life!*

(Chairman: Order! Order! We must first hear from the Clerk.)

CLERK

3 The theft of a valuable motor-car
Deserves twelve months at least.
And supposing we said three more years on top
For driving at dangerous speeds?

4 But the issue of his gross impertinence
To our esteemed police,
Will demand that we sentence him 15 years.
POLICEMAN (*Spoken*)
That's lenient for his cheek!

CHORUS

CLERK

5 If we add the figures up efficiently,
That's nineteen years in all.
But it seems it would make better sense all round
If it were to be just one more.

CHAIRMAN
6 This proposition is most excellent!
You speak advisedly.
So now, Mr Toad, it's to jail you go –
Let the court now rise to its feet!

CHORUS

LAST CHORUS

*Twenty years! Twenty years!
For this terrible crime. (TOAD: Twenty years?)
Twenty years! Twenty years!
It's a very long time (TOAD: You're joking!)
To be locked up, banged up, hung out to dry,
Twenty years, behind bars
For the rest of his life!
TOAD
Twenty years, behind bars
For the rest of my life!*