Did you forget how to use Mathematica?

Again? You spent all this money, charging up vulgar debt only to forget how to use this software? You've been intimidated and captivated by Mathematica since the mid-1980s. You have to turn this computational environment into a familiar mental landscape! This is a tool that makes documents, *living* documents of computational data with human commentary. This tool should be as familiar as Microsoft Word is to you—it *will* be.

The page layout features of Mathematica are limited (cells are stacked vertically and cannot be laid out side by side in multiple columns which must be why notebooks are often displayed by default in narrow windows)—but they should be reviewed first because we are making human-readable documents here. First of all, this sentence should be the second paragraph in the second cell of this document (enter **Ctrl+Shift+e** to invoke **Cell > Show Expression** to see the StyleBox TextData of the Cell—and that *everything* in a notebook is a Wolfram Language Expression). You started writing this document by using the menu (since you have forgotten the keyboard commands). You selected **Window > Toolbar > Formatting** to show the **Formatting Toolbar** which will allow you to see what style is in use as you move the up/down arrow keys to move among the cells of this document. You also selected **Format > Stylesheet > ReverseColor** to get a dark background (easier on the eyes but will drain the ink from a printer so beware!).

You are generating new paragraphs by hitting the enter key within this second cell. You are not sure whether these are line breaks or paragraph breaks because there appears to be no line spacing expected from, say, Microsoft Word paragraph breaks. By convention, you are using **Ctrl+i** for italics and **Ctrl+b** for bold and these commands are working as expected. (You also noticed the **Ctrl+.** command from **Edit > Extend Selection** menu item. This allows you to select cells and cut (with **Ctrl+x**) or delete them.) The italics/bold keyboard commands appear as tooltips in the **Writing Assistant** palette under the **Writing and Formatting** pane. This assistant does not show any paragraph-spacing values. You do see this after searching for **ParagraphSpacing** in the **Option Inspector** (available under the **Format** menu, making sure that the first dropdown is set to **Global Preferences**).

The keyboard command to make hyperlinks is **Shift+Ctrl+h**. You notice here in Mathematica 11 that inserting a hyperlink makes the font size increase. You might use the **Alt+-** command to decrease the size but the **Formatting Toolbar** shows you that the style is **Chapter** for hyperlinks by default (probably because hyperlinks are expected to be used for a table of contents more often)—change the style to **Text** with the hyperlink selected to get the correct font size. Now that you know how to make hyperlinks, you can list the YouTube videos with all the tutorials you have seen and forgotten about:

• "Hands-on Start to Mathematica: Notebooks"
• "Introduction to the Wolfram Language Part 1"

- "Professor Richard J. Gaylord's Wolfram Language Fundamentals Part One"
- "Term-Rewriting in JavaScript for Fun and World Domination"
- "Suppress the OutpEut of a Computation" (hint: use the semi-colon to suppress output)
- "Keyboard Shortcut Listing"

The "special characters" of this list came from the escape sequences defined by Mathematica.