**Discussion Prompt**  
As we wrap up the course, take a moment to reflect on your learning experience. What were your favorite elements of the course? Were there specific topics, activities, or assignments that stood out to you? Share your thoughts on what you found most engaging or impactful.

During the semester, my favorite learning experience was the ability to learn how machines understand human language. This is a two-way understanding stream as this NLP course allowed me to gauge how machine text generation works. I especially enjoyed learning about how neural networks like RNNs, LSTM, and transformers (including BERT) work behind the scenes to handle language tasks. Seeing how word embeddings and sentence embeddings-like Word2Vec, GloVe, and BERT-turn words and sentences into vectors that capture meaning was both cool and surprisingly intuitive once I got the hang of it.

The hands-on projects, especially fine-tuning BERT for tasks like text classification and question answering, were the most engaging for me. It was satisfying to see theory translate into working code, and to realize how powerful these models are for real-world applications. Overall, diving into the details of how models like BERT use self-attention and context to outperform older methods made the course really impactful and kept me motivated to learn more.

I am really excited to continue deepening my understanding of NLP and get to the edge of human knowledge to potentially contribute to pushing it further out.

PS: I like transformers better now than at the beginning of the semester.

A collage of cartoons

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