

Uhms and Bunny Hands: **Tips for Improving Your Presentation Skills**



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DataGrillen · June 21st 2019

Session Description

Are you considering becoming a speaker, but feel nervous about getting on stage for the first time? Have you already presented a few sessions and want advice on how to improve? Do you learn more from seeing examples of what you should NOT do during a presentation instead of reading a list of bullet points on how to become a better speaker?

Don't worry! I have made plenty of presentation mistakes over the years so you won't have to :)

In this session, we will go through common presentation mistakes and how you can avoid them, as well as how you can prepare for those dreaded worst-case scenarios. Don't let those "uhms" and "uhhs" dominate your presentation, help the audience focus on the key message you're delivering instead of making them read a wall of text in your slides, recover gracefully from any demo failures, and stop distracting your attendees with floppy bunny hands.

All it takes is a little preparation and practice. You can do this!





@cathrinew



cathrinew.net

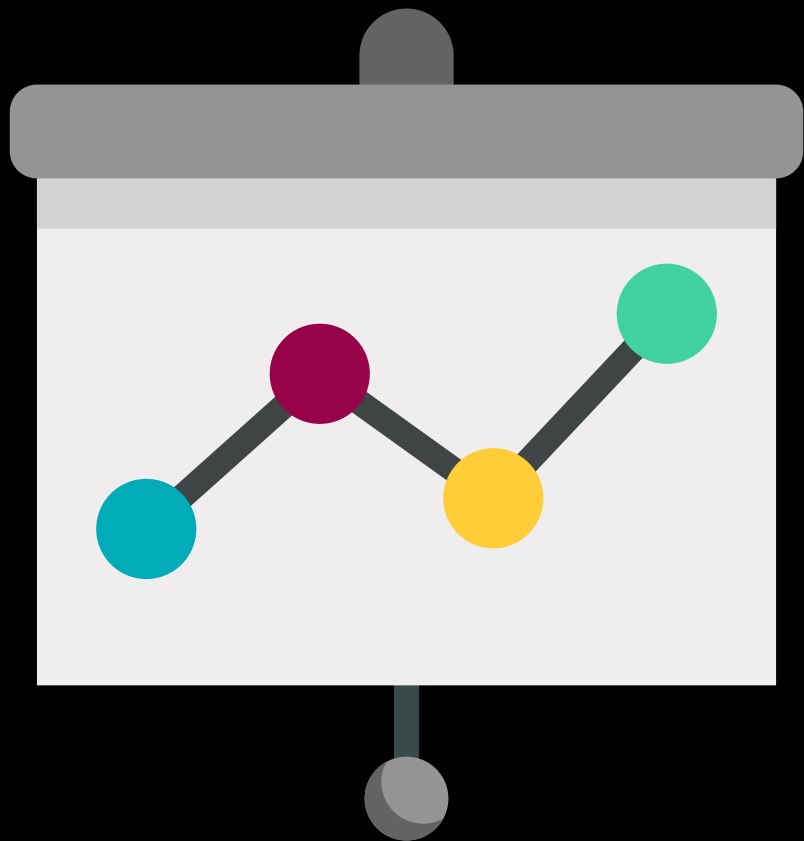
Warning

Audience participation required

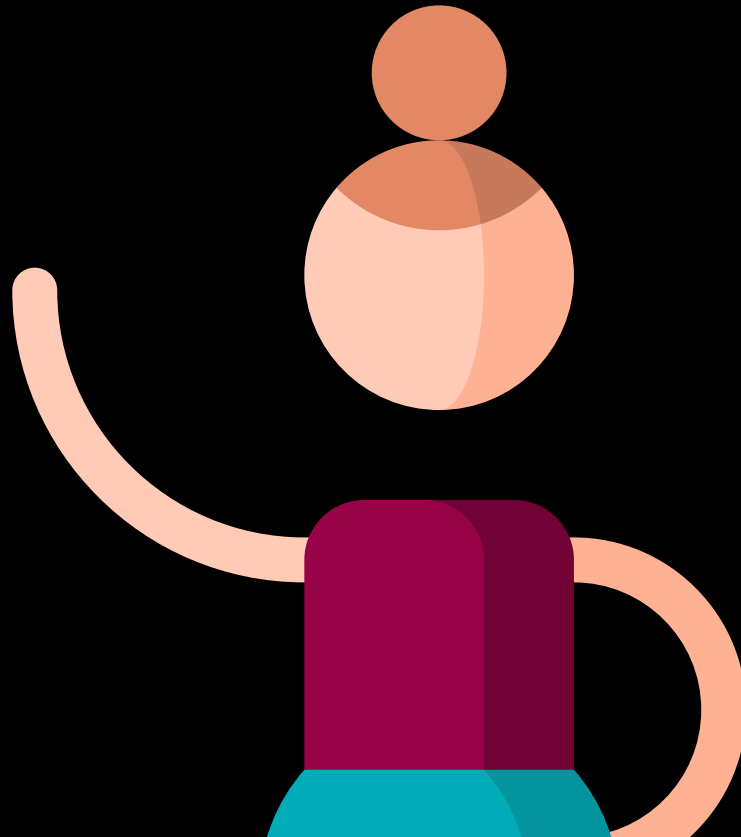
Spoiler Alert

You will fail

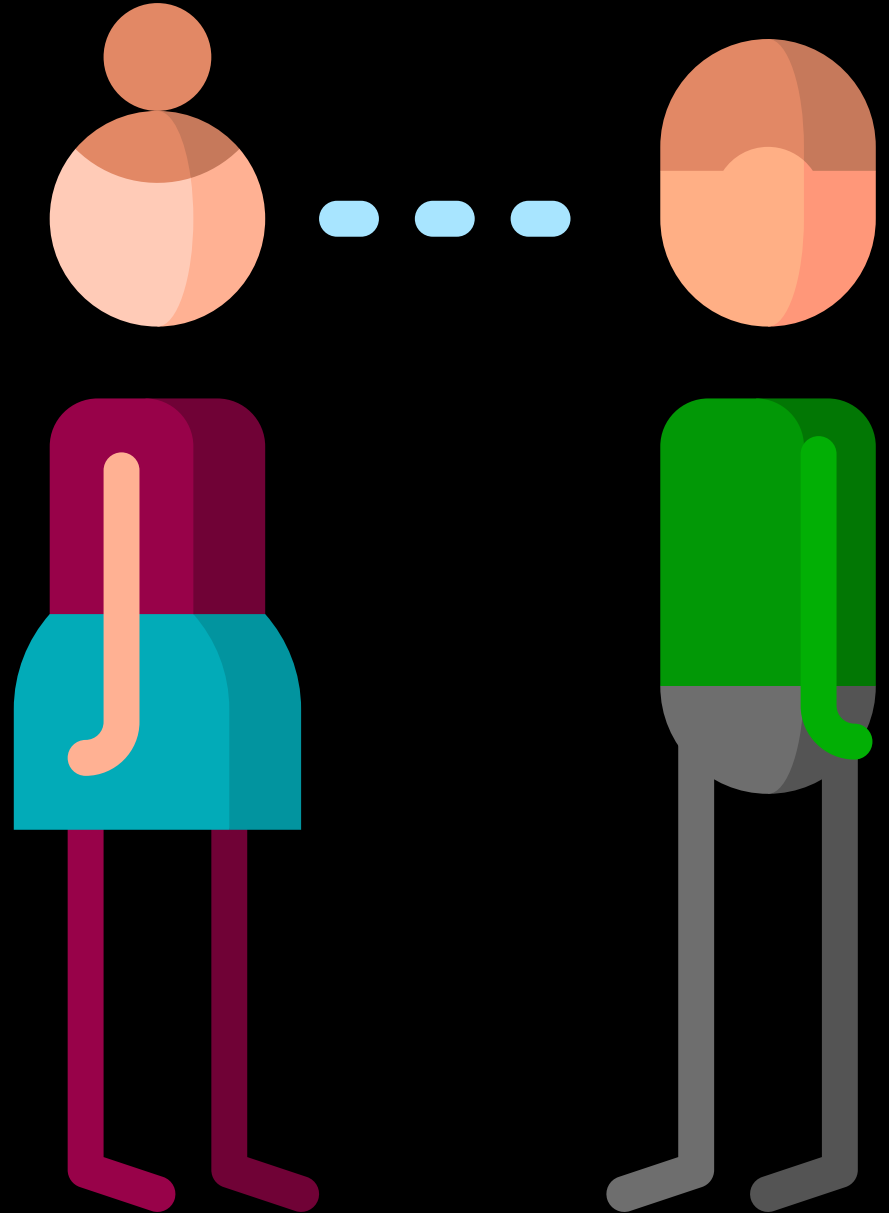
:D



Person



Make Eye
Contact



Look Around

People, screen, computer, shoes?

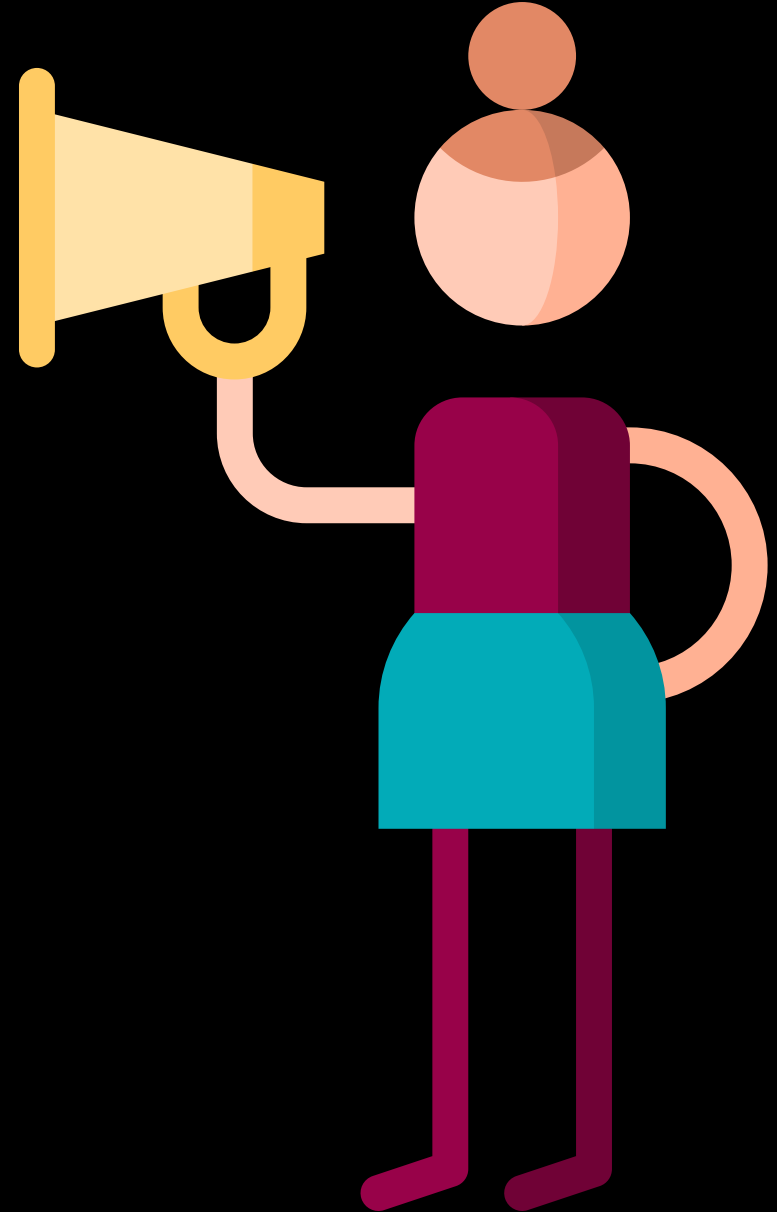


Be
Enthusiastic

Be You

Personality, experiences, stories

Speak
Clearly

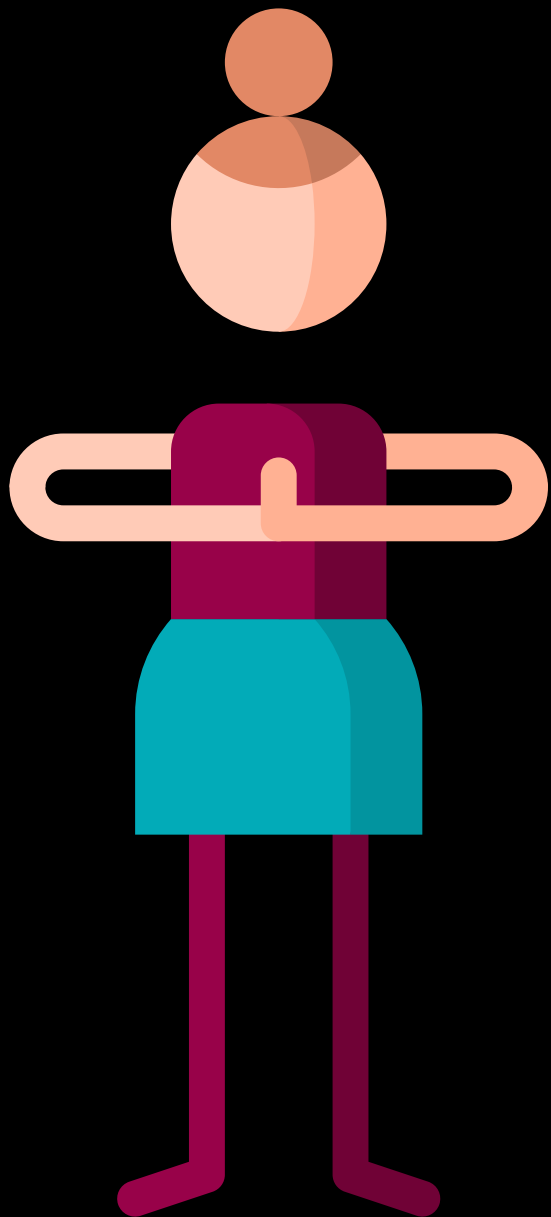


Filler Words

Uhm, ehh, like, so, ok, actually, yeah

Voice Variation

Monotone, monotone, monozzzzz...

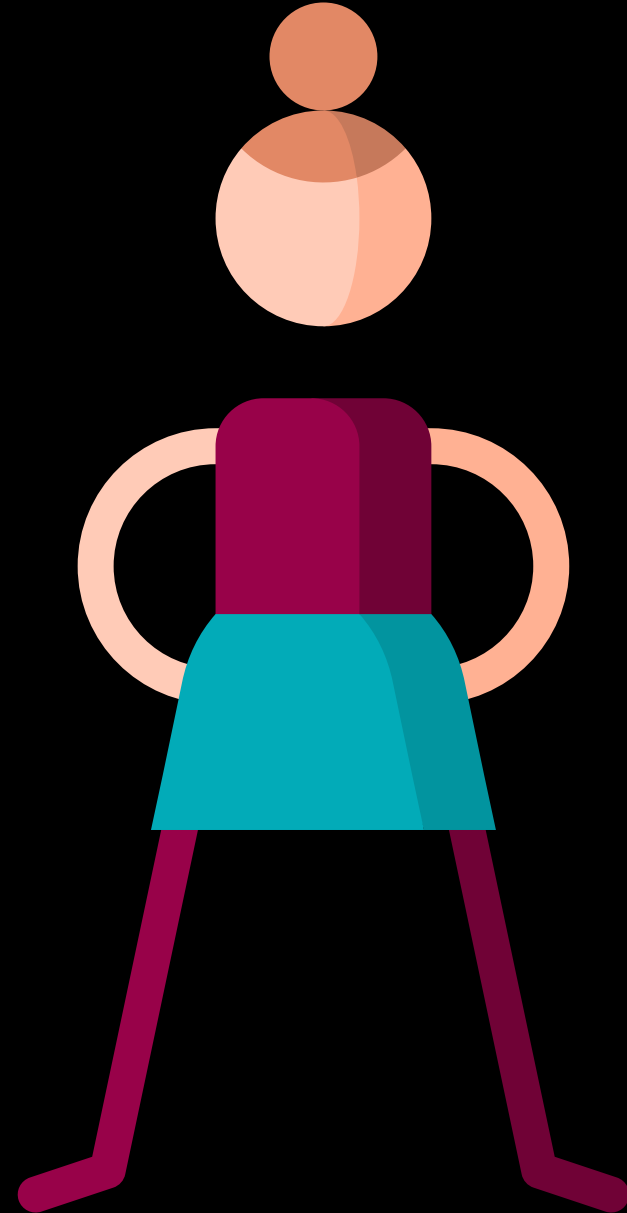


Breathe

Words per Minute

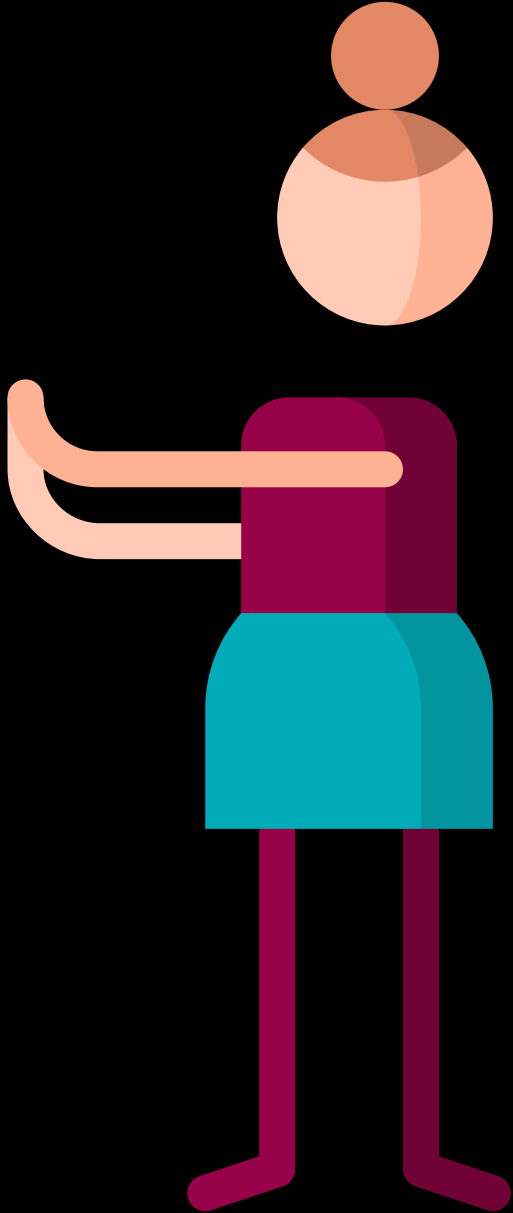
ItIsEasyToSpeakTooFastWhenYouAreNervous

Stand Tall



Common Poses

Floppy bunny, soldier, wonder woman?



Gesture
Intentionally

Mirroring

Left to right or right to left?

Pointing

Don't turn away from the audience

Move
Consciously



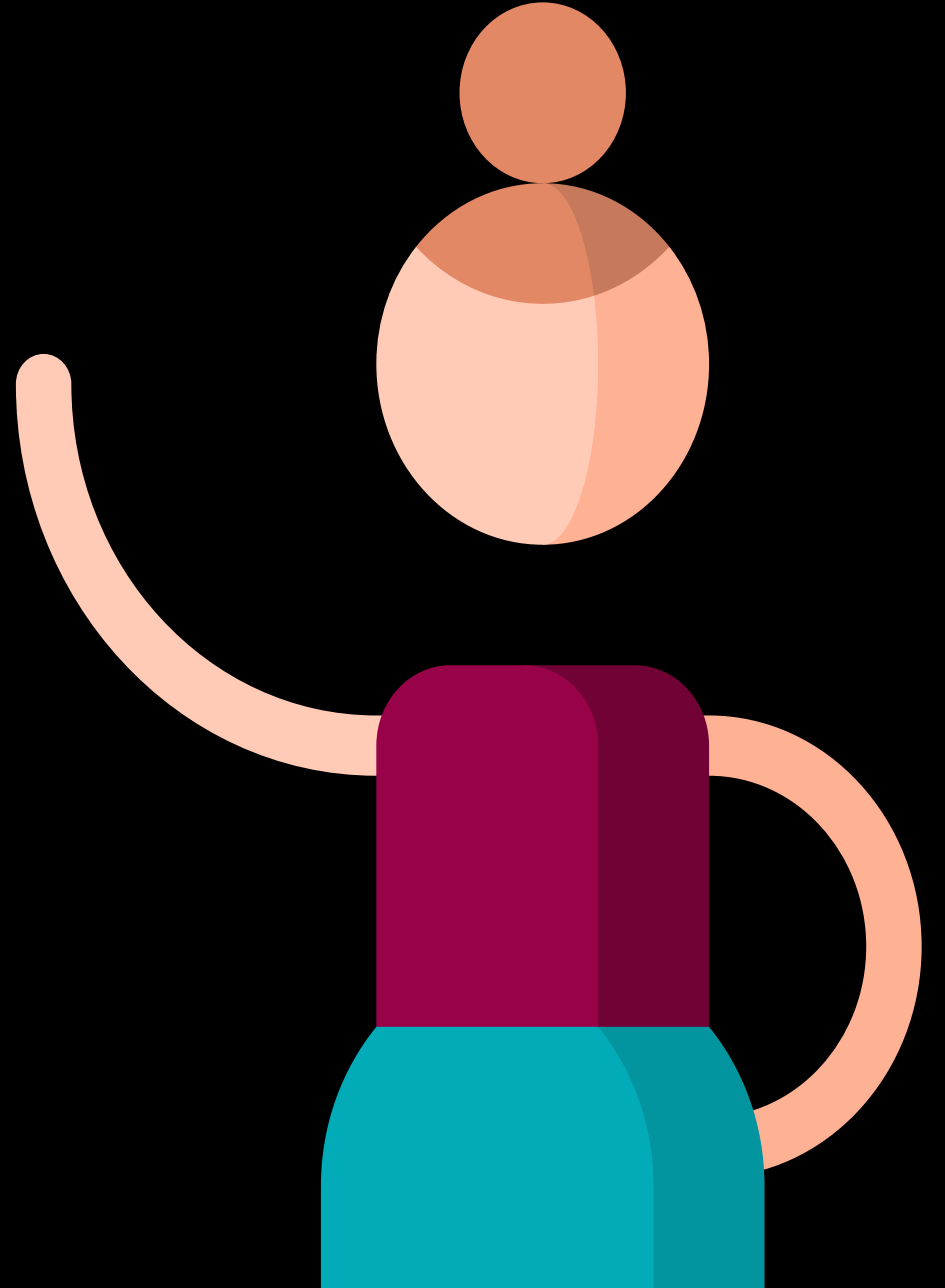
Fidgeting

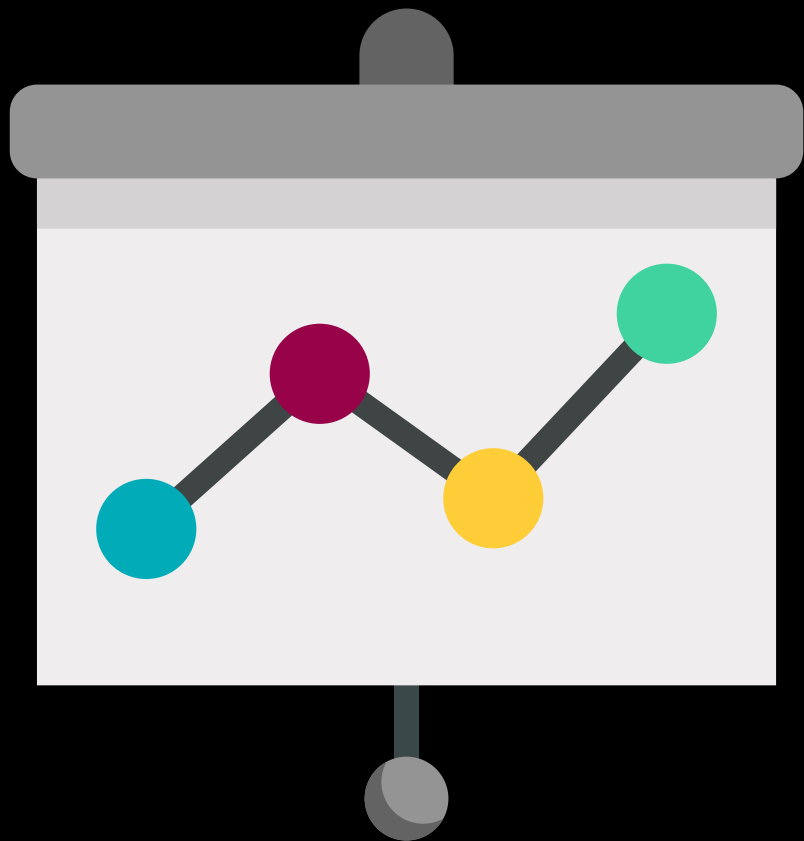
Drying palms, scratching, flipping hair

Pacing

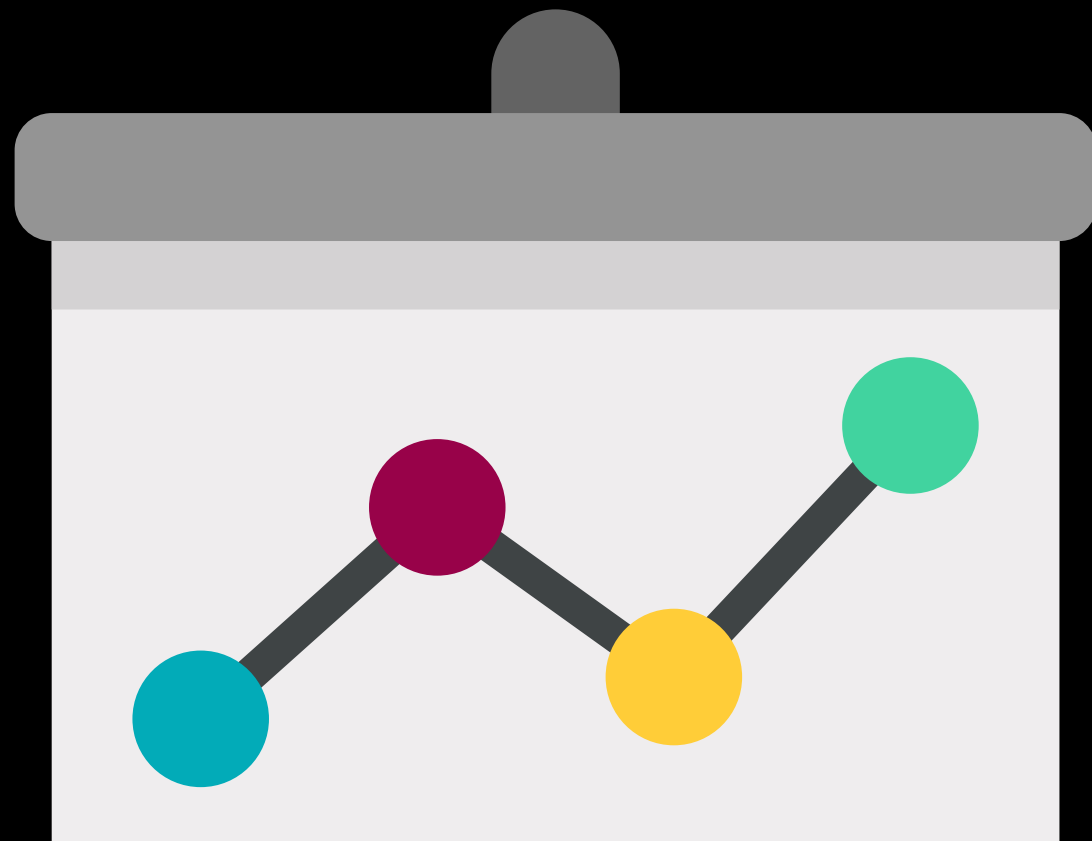
Walk, turn, sway, walk, turn, sway

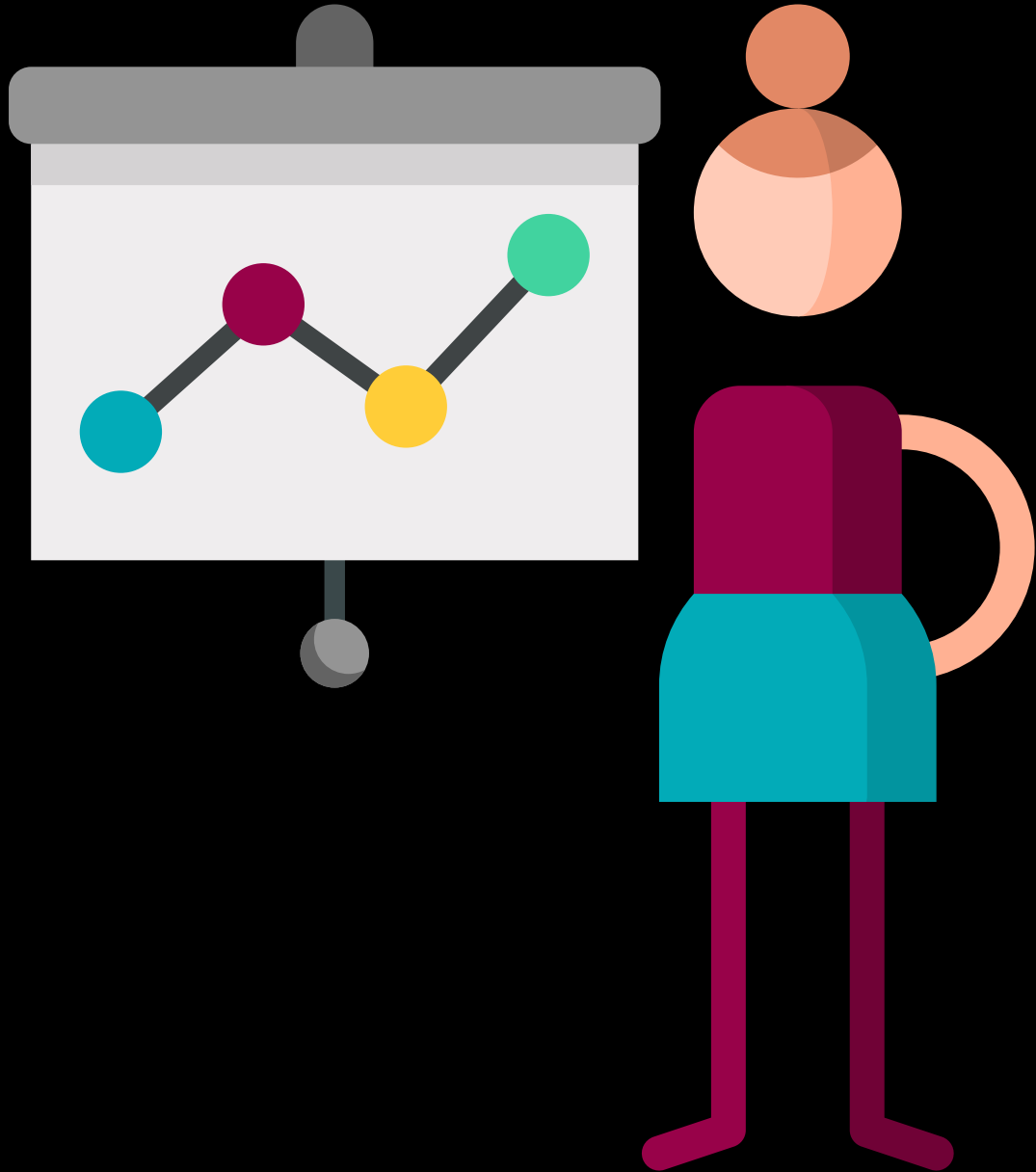
1. Make Eye Contact
2. Be Enthusiastic
3. Speak Clearly
4. Breathe
5. Stand Tall
6. Gesture Intentionally
7. Move Consciously





Props





Slide Deck

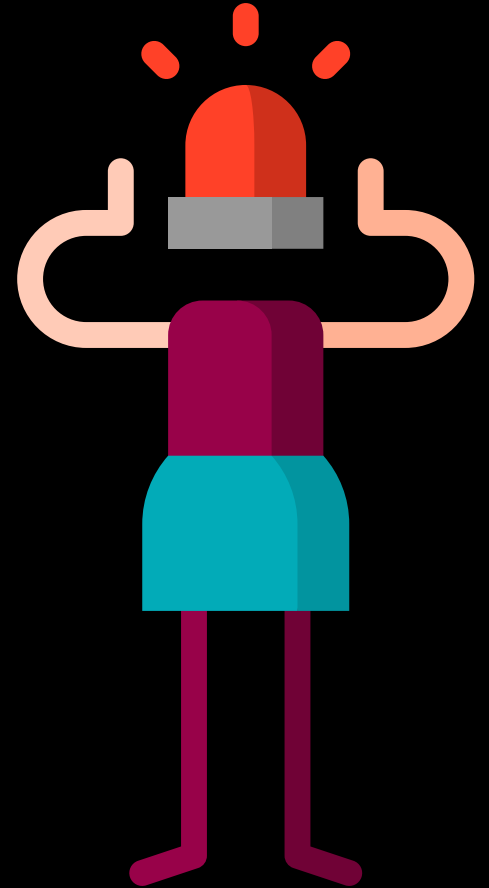
No Sections

How am I supposed to remember all this?

Agenda

- What is Biml?
- Biml Syntax
- Demo of Biml
- Converting SSIS to Biml
- What is BimlScript?
- BimlScript Syntax
- Demo of BimlScript
- Tiered Biml Files
- Annotations
- Final Demo of SQL and SSIS

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...the next 60 minutes...



Biml Basics

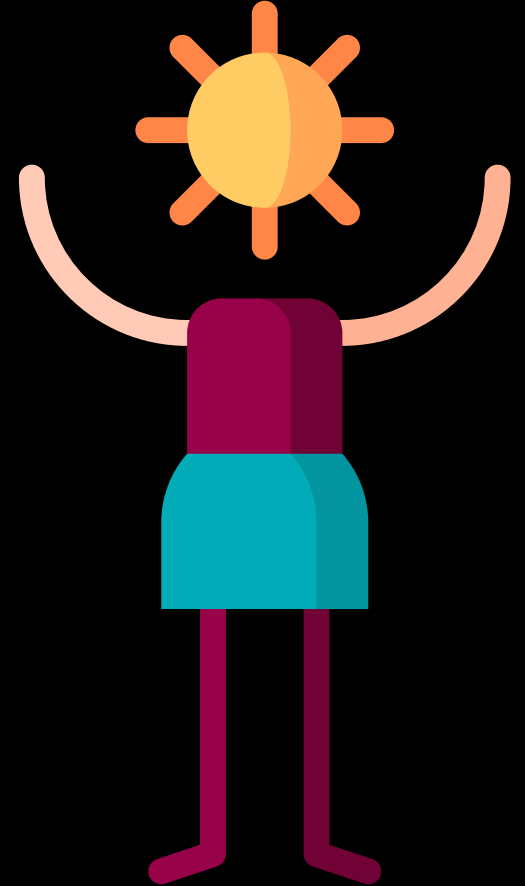


Tools & Code



SQL and SSIS from Metadata

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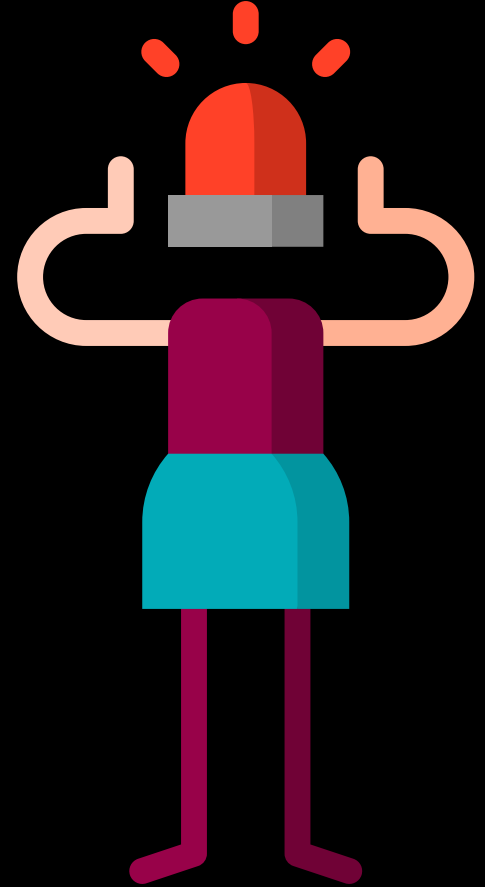


Wall of Text

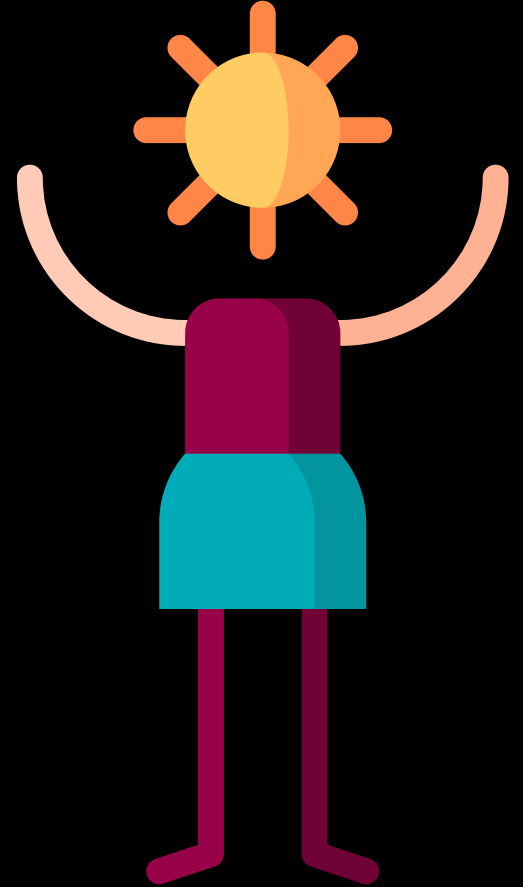
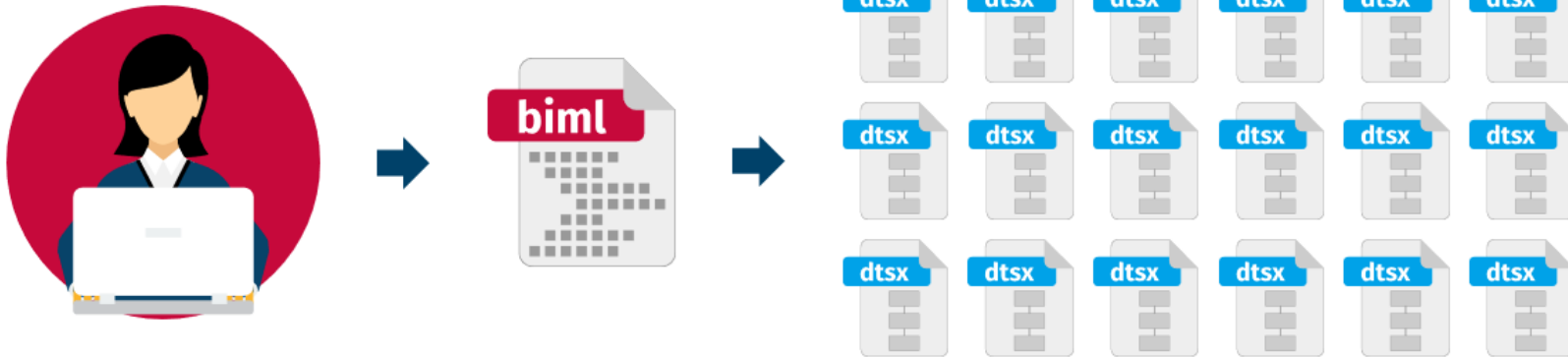
Should I listen or read the slide?

How does Biml development work?

- First, the developer manually codes and creates a Biml file in an SSIS project in Visual Studio
- Then the developer right-clicks on the Biml file in Visual Studio and clicks Generate SSIS Packages
- This checks and compiles the code and gives warnings or errors if there is something wrong
- Finally, the SSIS packages are generated and added to the SSIS Project



How does **Biml** development work?

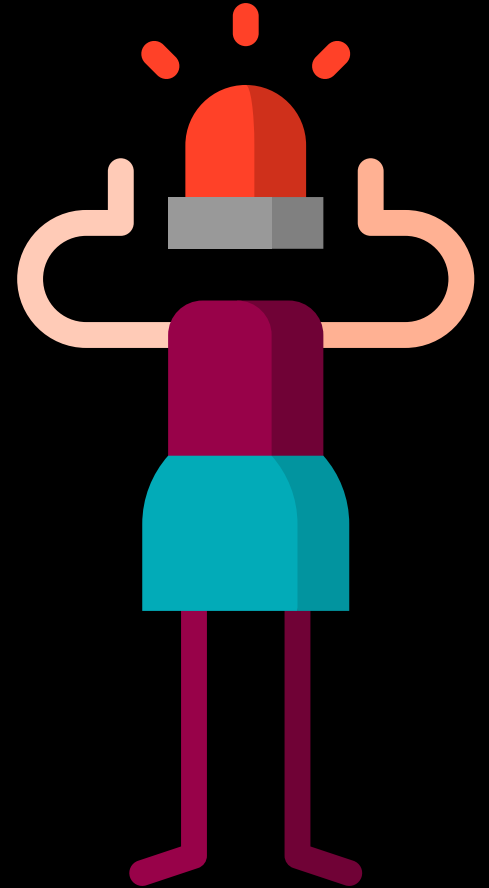


Fonts and Colors

squint

Some final tips

- **Get things done**
- Start small
- Start simple
- Start with ugly code
- **Keep going**
- Expand
- Improve
- Deliver often



Get things done

Start small

Start simple

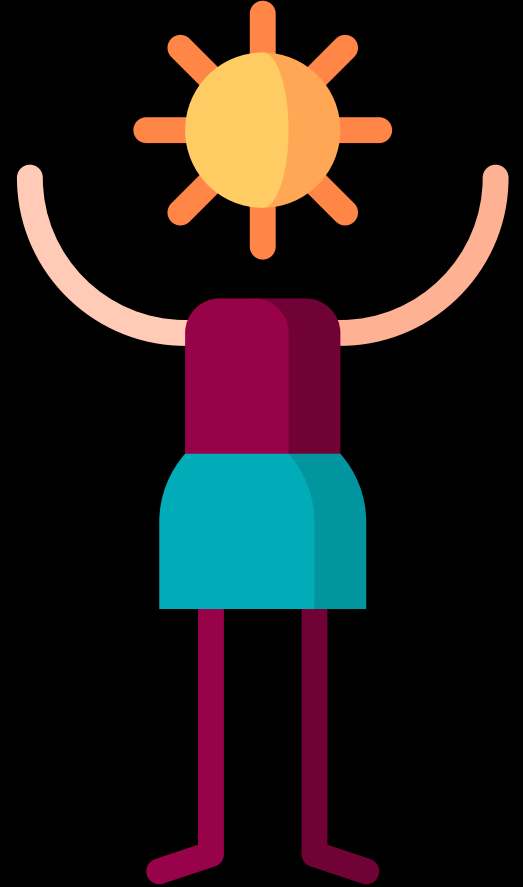
Start with ugly code

Keep going

Expand

Improve

Deliver often

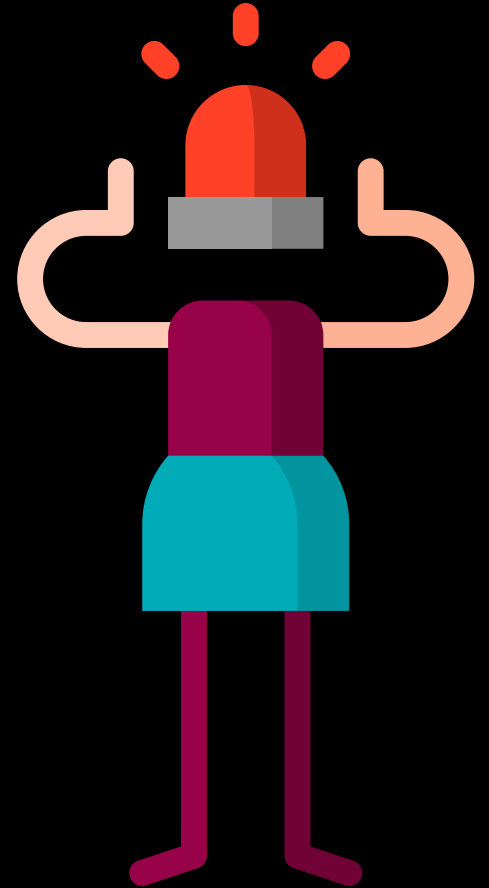


Too Many Things

What am I supposed to look at?

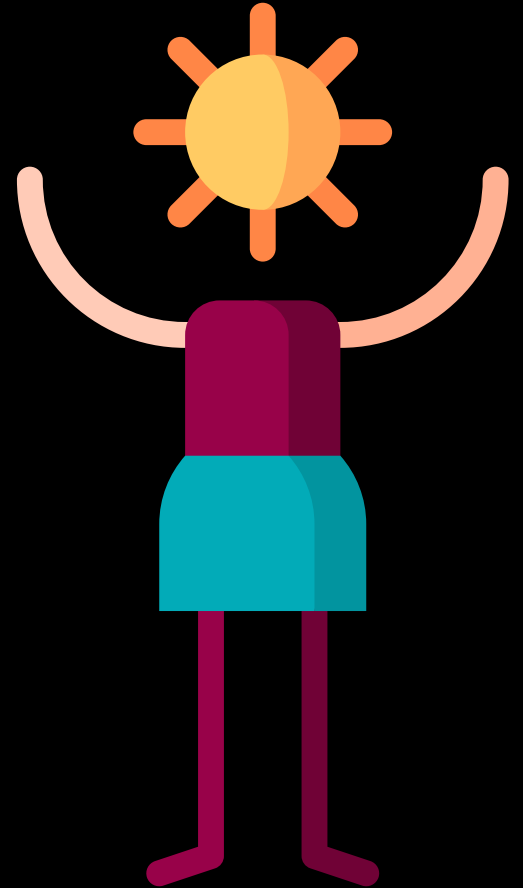
BimlScript Syntax

```
<# var con = SchemaManager.CreateConnectionNode(...); #>
<# var metadata = con.GetDatabaseSchema(); #>
<Biml xmlns="http://schemas.varigence.com/biml.xsd">
  <Packages>
    <# foreach (var table in metadata.TableNodes) { #>
      <Package Name="Load_<#=table.Name#>"></Package>
    <# } #>
  </Packages>
</Biml>
```



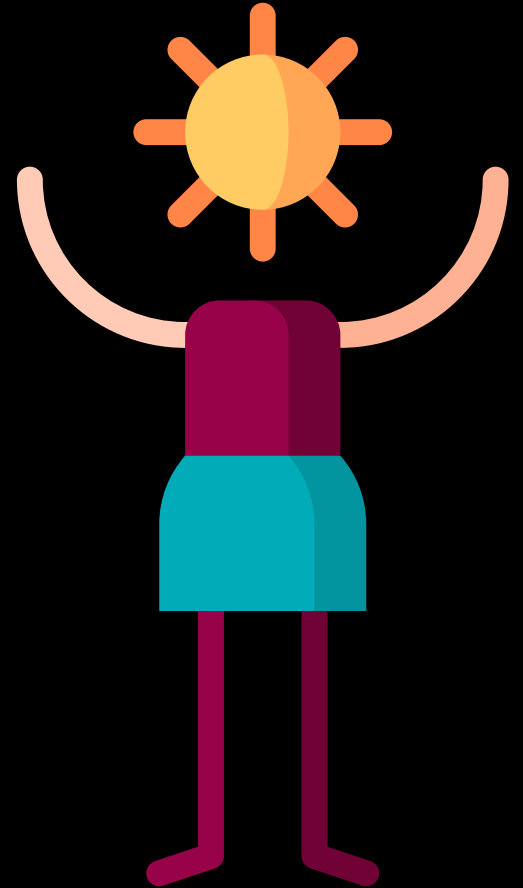
BimlScript Syntax: Import metadata

```
<# var con = SchemaManager.CreateConnectionNode(...); #>  
<# var metadata = con.GetDatabaseSchema(); #>  
<Biml xmlns="http://schemas.varigence.com/biml.xsd">  
  <Packages>  
    <# foreach (var table in metadata.TableNodes) { #>  
      <Package Name="Load_<#=table.Name#>"></Package>  
    <# } #>  
  </Packages>  
</Biml>
```



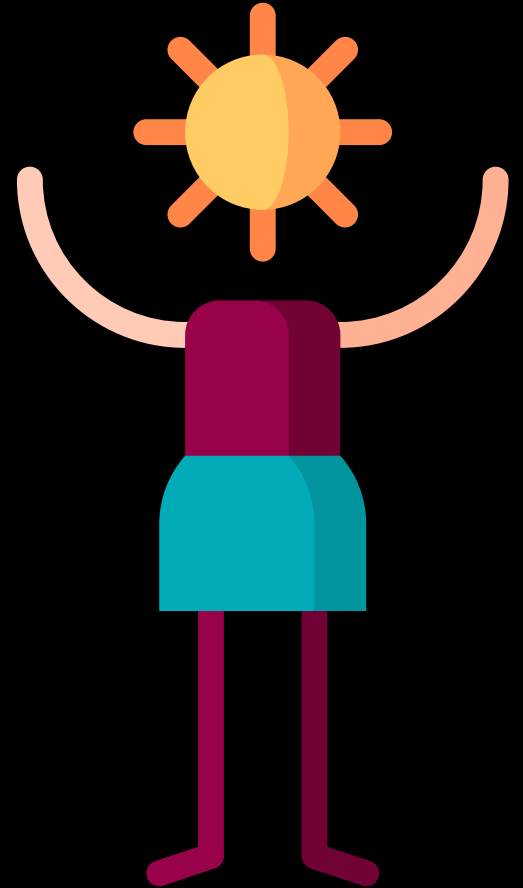
BimlScript Syntax: Loop over tables

```
<# var con = SchemaManager.CreateConnectionNode(...); #>
<# var metadata = con.GetDatabaseSchema(); #>
<Biml xmlns="http://schemas.varigence.com/biml.xsd">
  <Packages>
    <# foreach (var table in metadata.TableNodes) { #>
      <Package Name="Load_<#=table.Name#>"></Package>
    <# } #>
  </Packages>
</Biml>
```



BimlScript Syntax: Replace static values

```
<# var con = SchemaManager.CreateConnectionNode(...); #>
<# var metadata = con.GetDatabaseSchema(); #>
<Biml xmlns="http://schemas.varigence.com/biml.xsd">
  <Packages>
    <# foreach (var table in metadata.TableNodes) { #>
      <Package Name="Load_<#=table.Name#>"></Package>
    <# } #>
  </Packages>
</Biml>
```

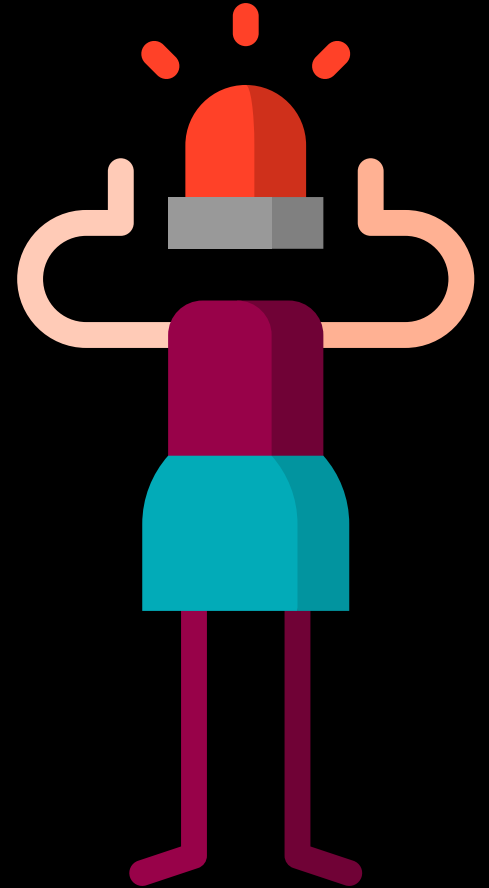


No Visualizations

I read the words, but I don't get it

Drop and Create

- When you create tables, you create the dimensions before the facts
- When you drop tables, you drop the facts before the dimensions

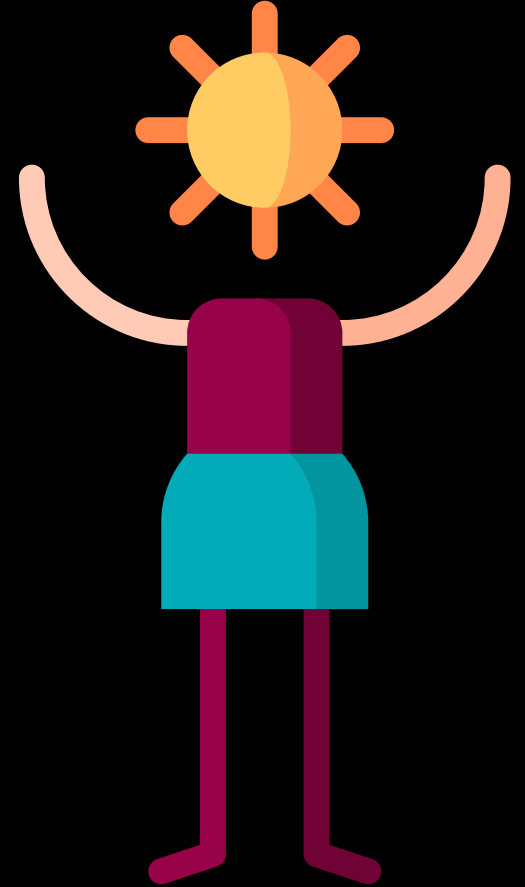


Drop and Create

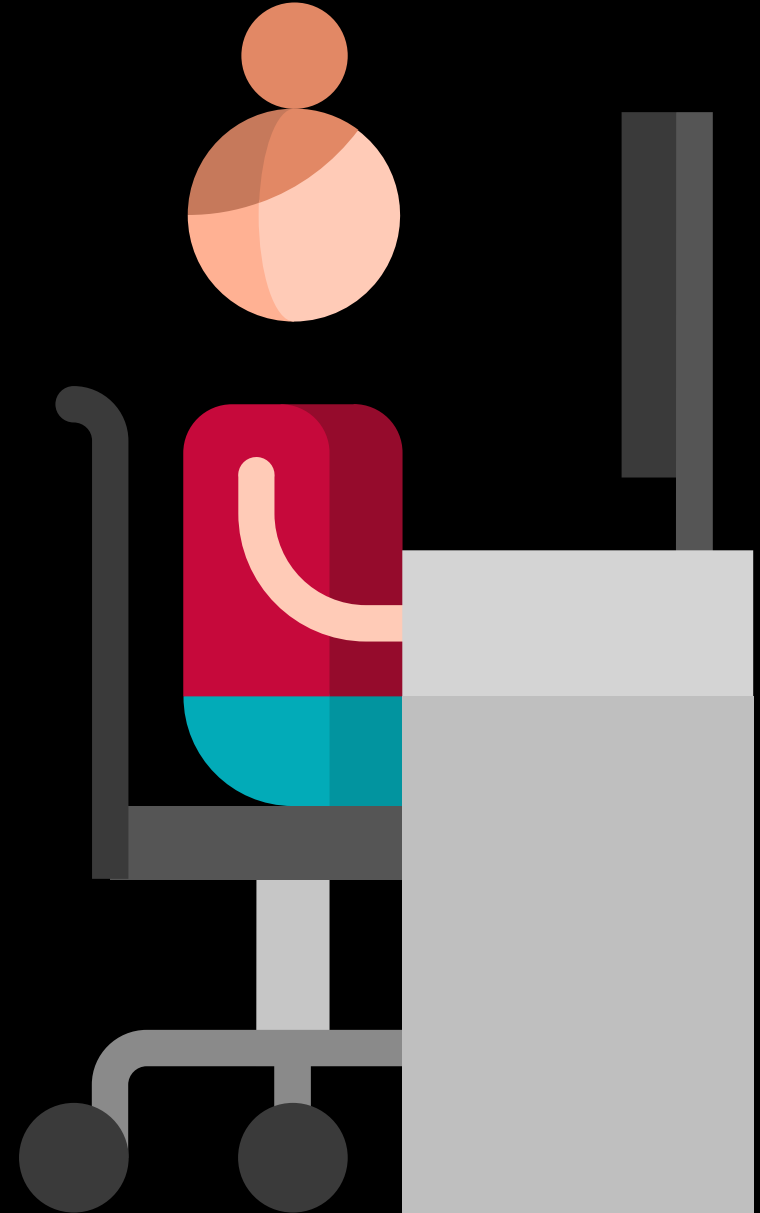
Create Order:



Drop Order:



Demos



Font Size 8

squint

Scrolling Too Fast

whoosh

Talking to the Screen

Hello?

Not Talking At All

Hello?

No Explanation

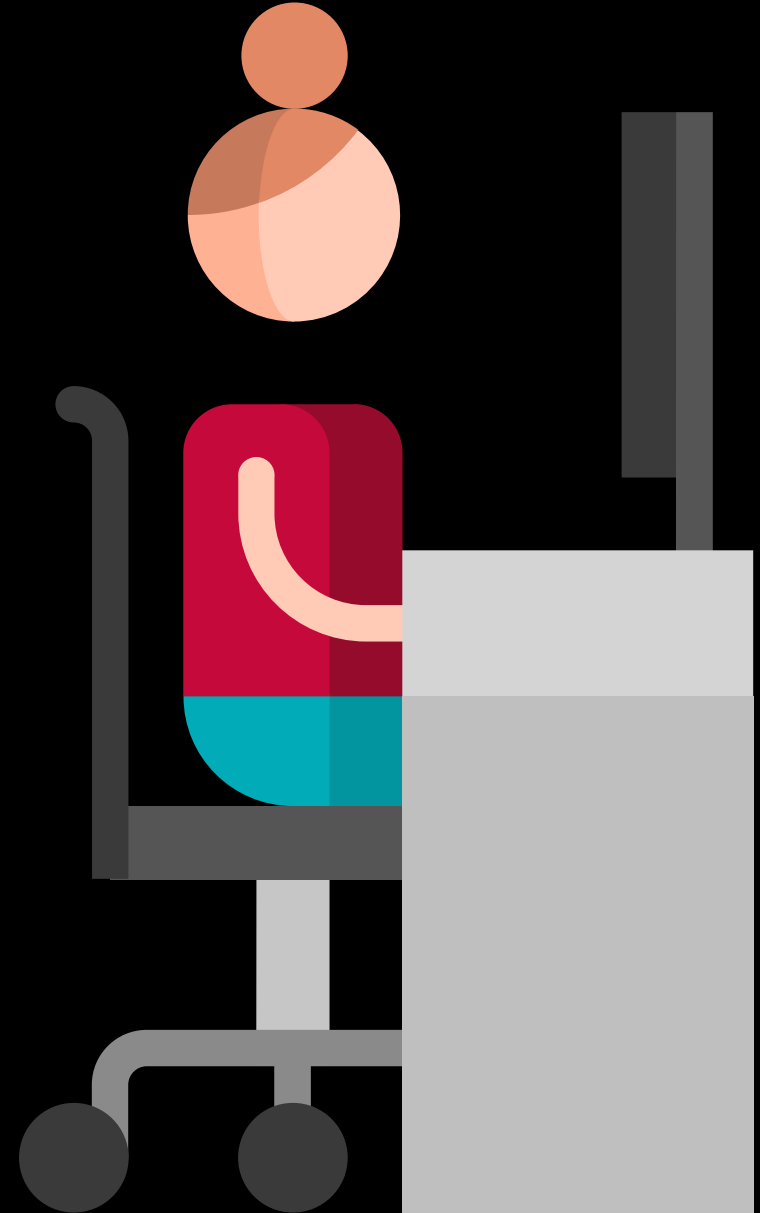
Wait, what?

Missing Backups

...and did you test your restores?

DEMO

Demo of Demos



Scott Hanselman's Microphone Issue



<https://youtu.be/rd0Rd8w3FZ0?t=9264> (*watch for 1 min*)

Scott Hanselman's Microphone Issue

Takeaways from this video:

- Things *will* happen
- Things happen to *everyone*
- You can't always control everything
- It's OK when things happen
- Keep going, don't freeze or panic
- Have a friend in the room! :)

Scott Hanselman's Screen Issue



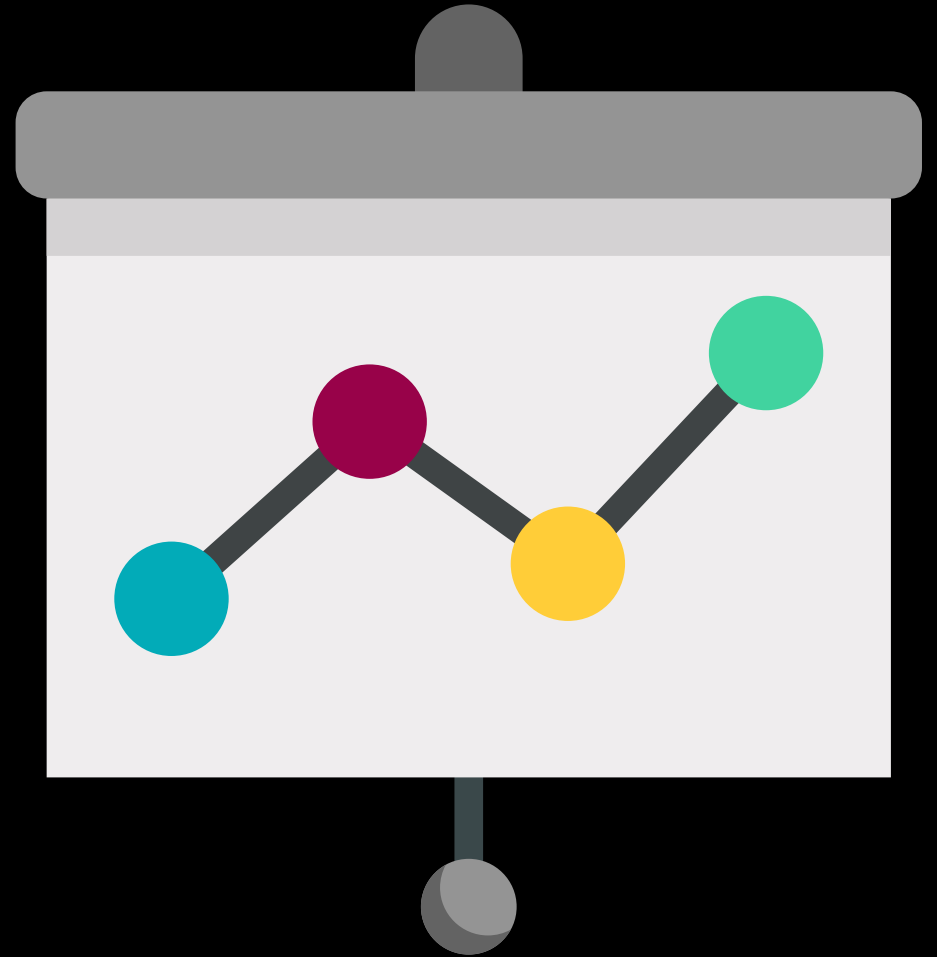
<https://youtu.be/VGQNXMJtcxk?t=630> (*watch for 1.5 min*)

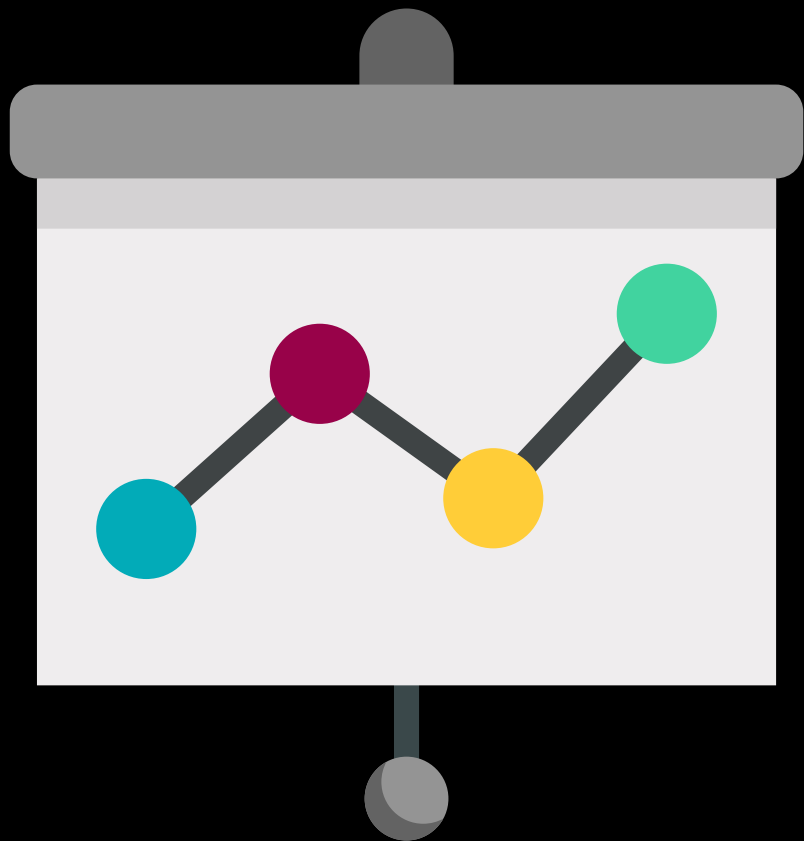
Scott Hanselman's Screen Issue

Takeaways from this video:

- **Other** things *will* happen
- Things happen to *everyone*
- You can't always control everything
- It's OK when things happen
- Keep going, don't freeze or panic
- Have a friend in the room! :)

1. Keep it Simple
2. Visualize Content
3. Explain Steps
4. Have Backups

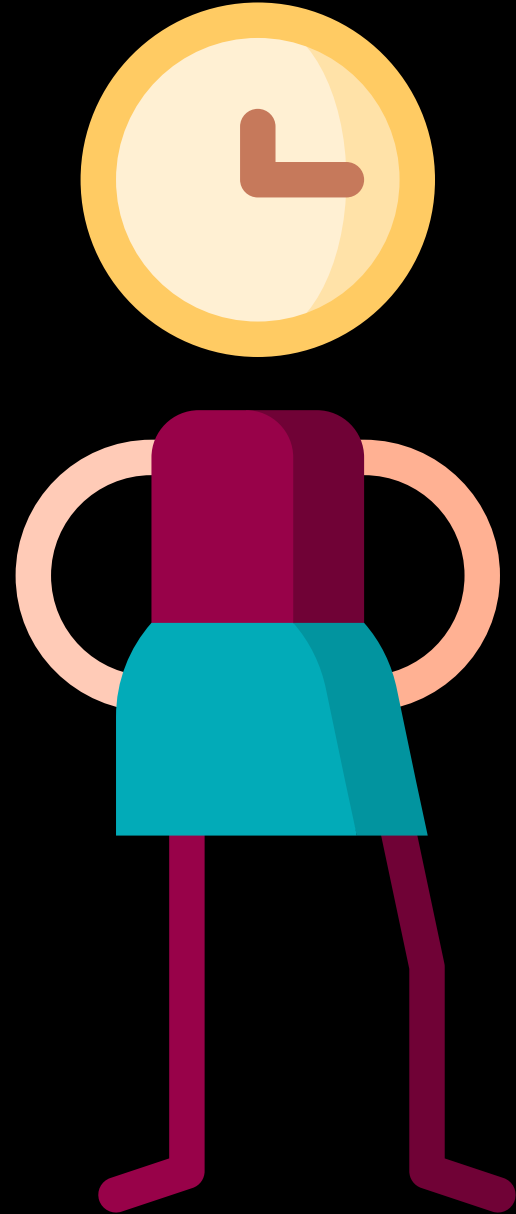




Performance



Preparation



Timebox

Cheat sheet and stopwatch

Section	Time	Total Time	Finish time
Introduction	2		2
Audience Introduction	3	~ 5	5
Basic Biml	3		8
Biml Syntax	3		11
Biml Demo	9	~ 15	20
Basic BimlScript	3		23
BimlScript Syntax	2		25
BimlScript Demo	10	~ 15	35
Don't Repeat Yourself	2		37
Don't Repeat Yourself - Split and Combine	4		41
Don't Repeat Yourself - Split and Combine Demo	8		49
Don't Repeat Yourself - Include	1		50
Don't Repeat Yourself - Include Demo	2		52
Don't Repeat Yourself - CallBimlScript	1		53
Don't Repeat Yourself - CallBimlScript Demo	2	~ 20	55
Create and Load a Staging Environment	15	~ 15	70
Summary	4	~ 5	75

75-minute session

Section	Time	Total Time	Finish time
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Don't Repeat Yourself - CallBimlScript Demo	2	~ 20	55
Create and Load a Staging Environment	15	~ 15	70
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Buffers

5-minute intro

5-minute summary

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Don't Repeat Yourself - CallBimlScript Demo	2	~ 20	55
Create and Load a Staging Environment	15	~ 15	70
Summary	4	~ 5	75

Content

3-5 sections

10-20-30 minutes

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Biml Syntax	3		11
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Summary	4	~ 5	75

Rehearsed Timings

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Create and Load a Staging Environment	15	~ 15	70
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Timeboxes

Section	Time	Total Time	Finish time
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Clock Warnings

Rehearse

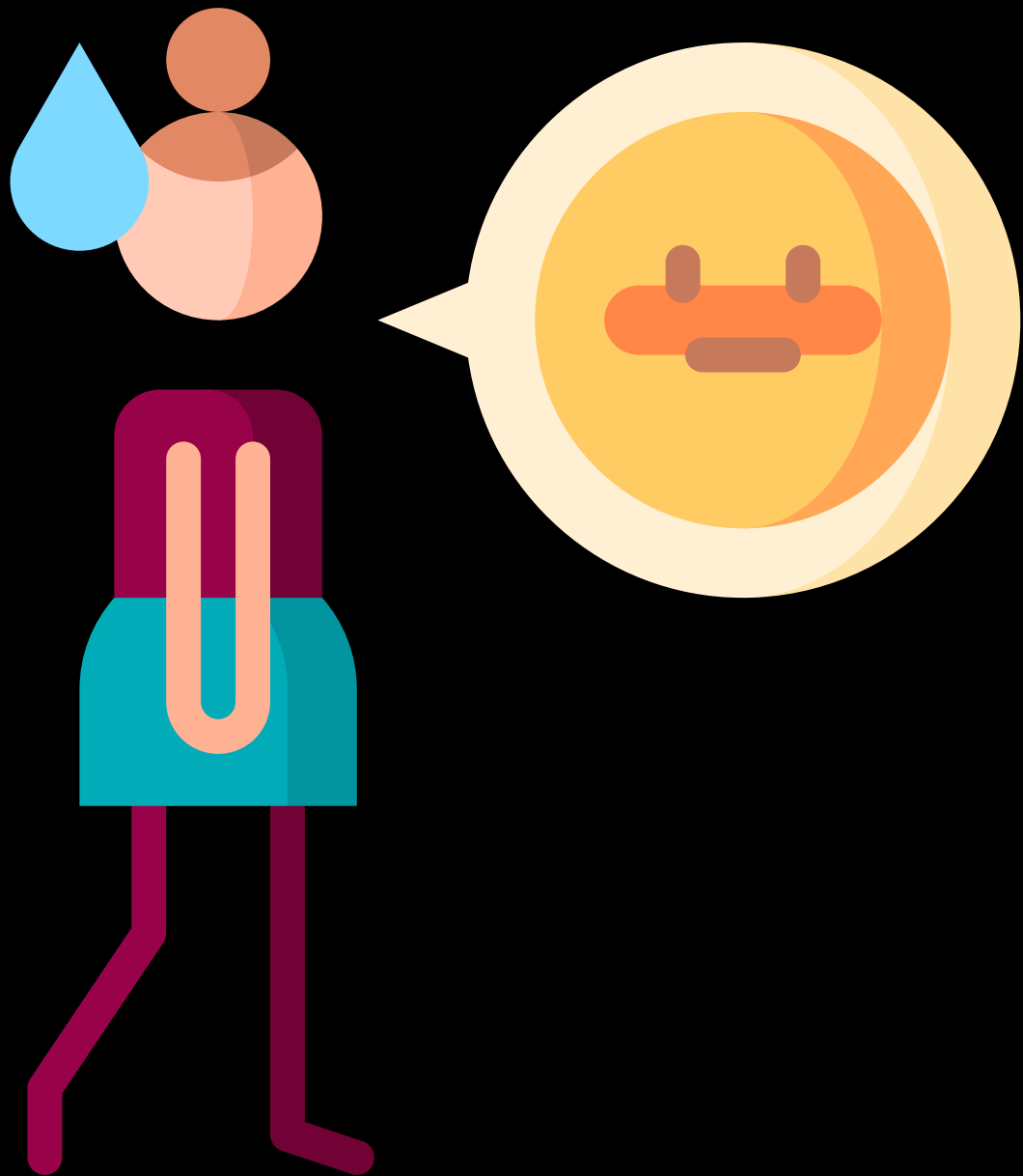
Memorize first 5 minutes

Know Your Audience

Be aware of jokes, phrases, and words

Ask a Friend

Get feedback and support



Delivery Mistakes

Negative Expectations

"I'm not an expert..."

Apologizing

"I'm sorry this text is so small..."

False Compliments

"This is simple, you all know this..."

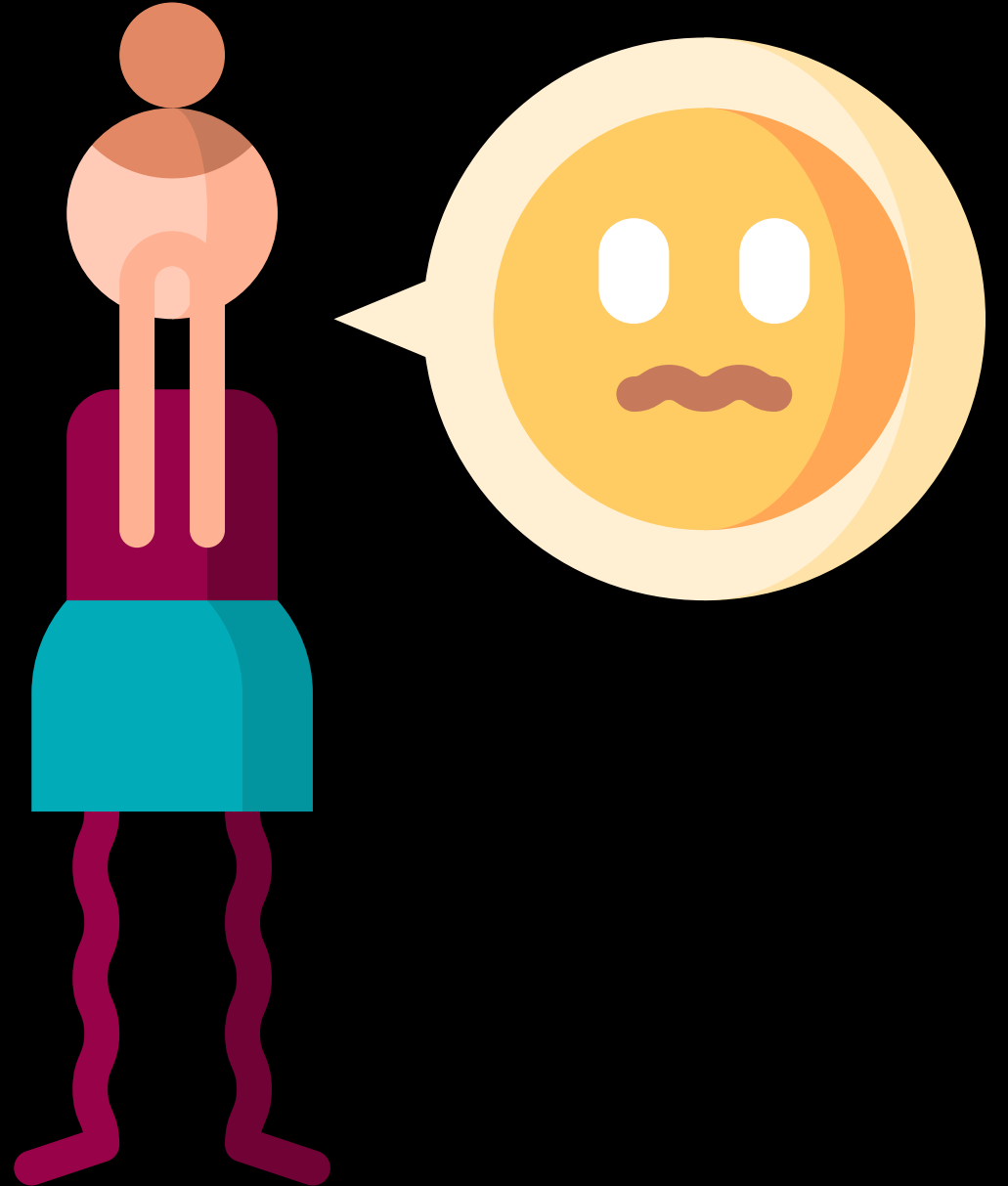
Poor Timing

"I'll just skip over these last forty slides..."

Weak Ending

"We have five minutes left... any questions?"

Common Fears



I forgot what to say!

Just keep going

I don't know!

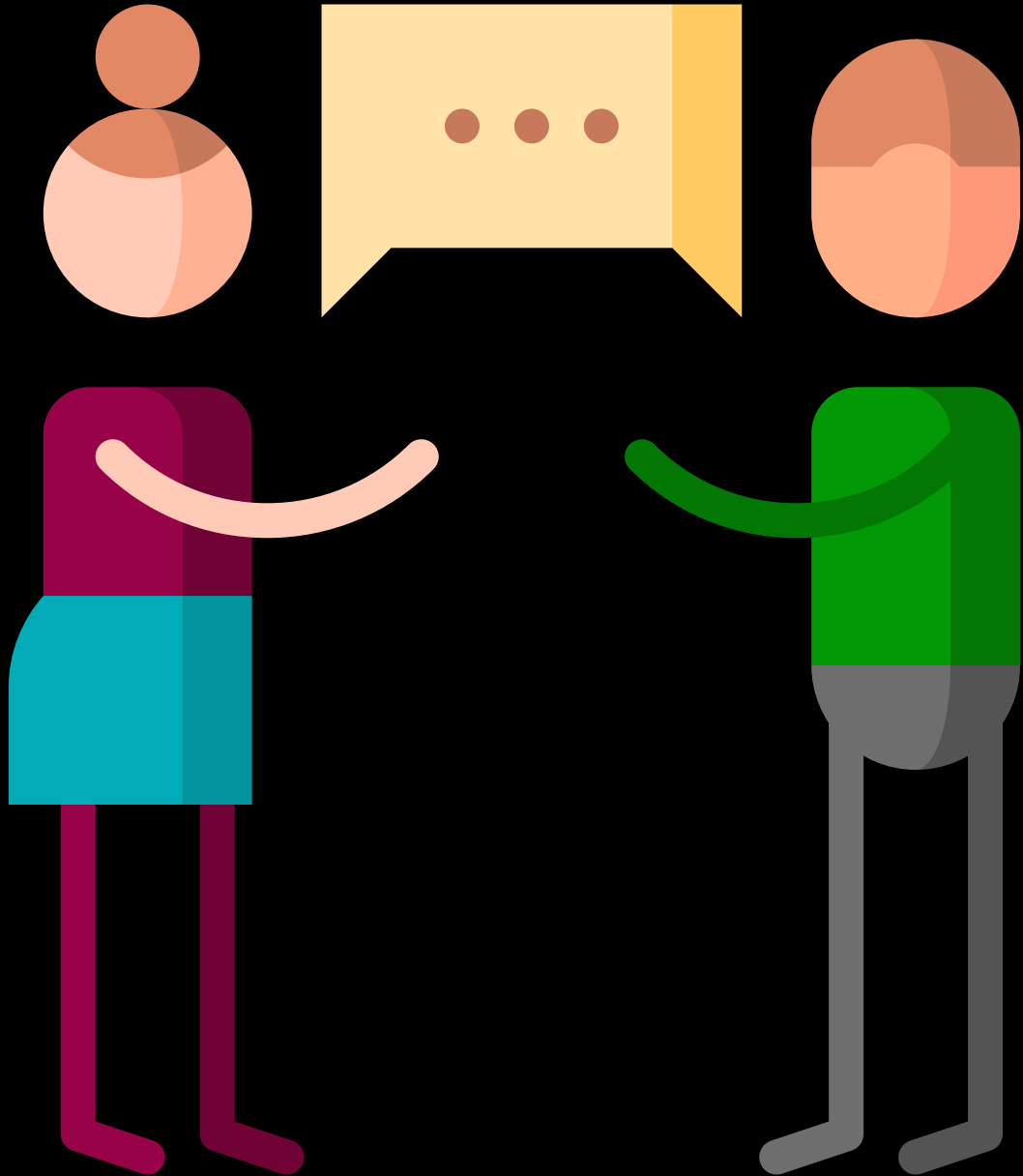
Never pretend you do

My demo failed!

Have a backup plan

No one showed up!

It happens :(



Interactions

Questions

Now or later?

Polls

Call out the results

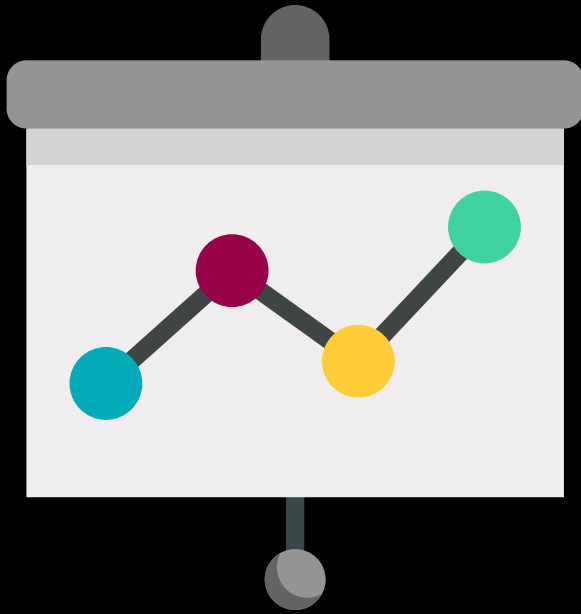
Feedback

Focus on what's actionable

1. Come Prepared
2. Be Confident
3. Learn to Fail
4. End Strong



Improve *one* thing each time you present



*There is only one **you** :)*



Celebrate!

thank you!



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