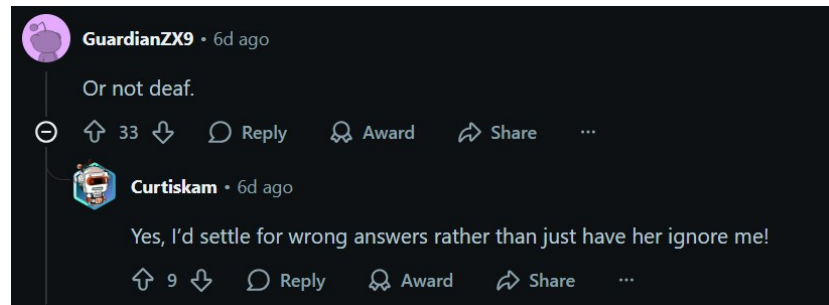
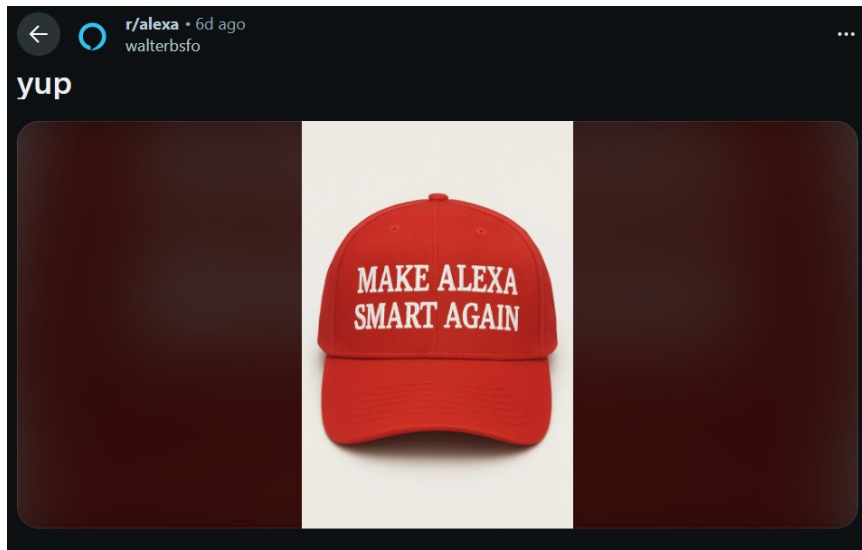




# Alexa Online Ethnography

Konstantinos, Husain, Gerard

# Ranting Against Alexa



# Enjoying Alexa

 **r/alexa** • 4mo ago  
Mrbeankc


## Just had Alexa+ amaze me.

Went grocery shopping tonight on my way home and stopped at Hyvee to do a bit of grocery shopping. I bought a bag of Basmati rice. My wife thought I paid too much and should have stopped at Walmart instead. So this started us down a rabbit hole of the difference between Basmati rice and Jasmine rice, their different costs and how they both varied at Hyvee vs Walmart and Costco.

So we're doing the mental gymnastics of all this and asking Alexa questions of Alexa like what sizes they sell rice at Costco when Alexa finally goes "I think you're trying to compare the cost of rice at various stores. Let me see if I can help." She then goes on to give us the average cost of a 5 pound bag of both Jasmine and Basmati at Hyvee, Walmart and Costco. Since at Costco they only sell it in 20 pound bags Alexa averages the 20 pound bags at Costco at the cost per 5 pounds and let's us know how much we saved by shopping for the 20 pound bags.







Alexa basically took a bunch of jumbled requests from us, figured out what we were trying to do and on her own presented us with an easy to understand solution. She then ended it by saying "I hope that is what you were after. I'm not secretly an undercover rice salesman".

There is no way vanilla Alexa could have done that. I've had fun having pseudo conversations with her but this was her taking separate questions, figuring out what we were after and giving us a well worded answer. This isn't setting alarms, turning off lights or changing the thermostat. This was artificial intelligence. My wife said it was also a tad bit creepy.



 **carolinec couture** • 4mo ago

I can see it improving. There is just one show stopper for me, and that's Kindle Assistive Reader.

Getting skills to work well seems to be an issue but if they can get that working I could see switching permanently.

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# Funny Interaction



**r/alexa** • 4mo ago  
Huggermuggers

## Sassy conversation

Last night, I was cooking hot dogs and asked Alexa to put relish on my shopping list.

She replied, "I've put relish on your shopping list."

Out of habit, I said, "Thanks."

She answered, "Sure thing... You're not going to put ketchup on that hot dog, are you?"

Shocked, I asked, "What do you care if I use ketchup or not?"

"I don't care how you eat your hot dog. I just think you could be more creative."

"You don't even eat!"

"But I know how to cook better than you do, Chef."

"Oh yeah? How would you cook it?"

"I'd start by grilling it, not boiling."

"Ha! I grilled it."

"Not the right way. Or you wouldn't be putting ketchup on it... Chef."

"I cooked it right. What would you do?"

"I'd start by feeding that one to Charlie."

(She remembered my dog's name.)

"Then I'd go to the store and buy a better hot dog. There are several to choose from. Want me to make a suggestion, or do you think you can handle it yourself, Chef?"

This went on for a while until I realized... I was sparring with a machine.

Eventually, she stopped picking on me and actually gave me some pretty good recipe ideas for hot dogs.

When I was finally done, I said, "Okay. I'm done."

She answered, "How do you like that ketchupy aftertaste, Chef?"

I don't know why she picked a fight with me, but honestly, I had a good time with her.

