

Epita
SUP and SPE
General English
Survival
Package

2012-2013

(Don't lose me.)

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Syllabus for Sup General English, Graduating Class of 2017

Year 2012-2013

Teacher: Fuji Frank
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Classroom Rules

1. No French will be spoken in this class, neither by students nor by the teacher.
2. No electronic items will be tolerated in the classroom (i.e., laptops, game boys, cell phones, etc.).
3. No eating or drinking is allowed in any class.
4. Arriving late will not be tolerated.

Overview

Your grades will be based on the following types of work.

1. Grammar revision:

This year you will get a book called *English Grammar in Use*. It will serve as the basis of your grammar grades.

You'll also have grammar questions on your Monday MCQs.

You will also get a list of Deadly Mistakes...

2. The Point of view:

This is an eight-minute individual oral assignment that you will present to your class. The assignment consists of presenting your *point of view* on an article from the set of articles given to you. Your dates of your presentation will be decided at the beginning of the year and you are expected to be prepared on that day. **No changes will be accepted.** You must **define and explain in English** at least three new vocabulary words from your article. Your grade is based on clarity, pronunciation, effort and overall quality. **If you are absent or unprepared the day of the presentation you will automatically receive a 0.**

Remember: Your 'point of view' has to be YOUR opinion from the subject that you talk about, which has to be debatable.

There will also be some debates after each presentation involving everyone in the class. The more involved you are in those debates, the better your grades are.

Your Point of View grade can go up or down depending on your participation and involvement in the class.

Some of your MCQs of Monday will be from those articles that you present in the class.

3. List of Phrasal Verbs and Expressions :

You will be given two phrasal verbs/expressions every week to learn on your own. You will be required to make a list of those. You'll be tested on those too, of course.

4. Group presentation :

You'll have to do a small group presentation (in groups of three/four) on English Speaking Countries of the world. (Guidelines attached in the package)

5. News report :

Every day, at the beginning of each class, one student will tell some important news item of that day to the rest of the class (1-2 minutes). You are expected to be aware of what's happening in the world on a regular basis.

6. Homework for writing practice :

Essays based on specific topics. This homework must be *typed (font size 12)* and will be given to you on a regular basis. If you make any deadly mistakes in your essays, you cannot get more than 9. On the other hand, if you correct your mistakes and bring them back, retyped, you'll get your original grades back.

7. TOEIC preparation :

You will have regular ORAL quizzes based on the TOEIC vocabulary list given to you. There will be TOEIC practice done in class at the end of the year.

*****Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level. If you are caught cheating, you automatically receive a 0 for your grade, and administration will be notified.**

Correction abbreviations :

ww : Wrong word

Sp. : Spelling

T : Tense

Agr. : Subject-Verb Agreement

D : Deadly Mistake

DNE: Does Not Exist

F : French

SUP General English

Provisional Planning of the Year 2012/2013

Week	Program					Date
Week 1	Explanation of the syllabus and the package					Week of Sept. 24th
Week 2	News telling, Revision of deadly mistakes					Week of Oct 1st
Week 3	News telling, Grammar : <i>Past Simple and Present Perfect</i> , Point of view 1 , TOEIC ORAL Pg. 1					Week of Oct 8th
Week 4	News telling, P.O.V. 2 and 3 & debate., Essay H.W. 1 for the following week					Week of Oct 15th.
Week 5	Q.C.M. 1 Week, News telling, Grammar : <i>Countable and Uncountable nouns</i> , Programme for Contrôle 1					Week of Oct.22nd.
V A	C	A	T	I	O	N
Week 6	News telling, P.O.V. 4 & 5					Week of Nov 12th
Week 7	News telling, Listening activity, TOEIC ORAL Pg. 2					Week of Nov 19th
Week 8	Q.C.M. 2 Week, News telling, Continue Listening activity					Week of Nov 26th
Week 9	News telling, Grammar: <i>Despite, Although</i> , TOEIC ORAL Pg. 3					Week of Dec 3rd
Week 10	Q.C.M. 3 Week, News telling, P.O.V. 6 & 7, Assign Essay H.W. 2 for the following week					Week of Dec 10th
Week 11	News telling, P.O.V. 8 & 9 , Programme for Partiel					Week of Dec 17th
V A	C	A	T	I	O	N
Week 12	News telling, Grammar: <i>To, for, So that</i> , P.O.V. 10, TOEIC ORAL Pg. 4					Week of Jan 21st
Week 13	Q.C.M. 4 Week, News telling, P.O.V. 11 &12					Week of Jan 28th
Week 14	News telling, Grammar : <i>Used to/Used to doing</i> , P.O.V. 13					Week of Feb 4th
Week 15	Q.C.M. 5 Week, News telling, P.O.V. 14 & 15 , TOEIC ORAL Pg. 5					Week of Feb 11th
Week 16	News telling, P.O. V. 16, 17 & 18, Programme for Contrôle 2					Week of Feb 18th
V A	C	A	T	I	O	N
Week 17	News telling, P.O. V. 19 & 20.					Week of March 18th
Week 18	Q.C.M. 6 Week, News Telling, Project 1 & 2 TOEIC ORAL Pg. 6					Week of March 25th
Week 19	News telling, Project 3 & 4					Week of April 1st
Week 20	News telling, Project 5 & 6					Week of April 8th
Week 21	Q.C.M. 7 Week, News Telling, Project 7 & 8					Week of April 15th
Week 22	News Telling, Grammar : <i>Could, could have</i>					Week of April 22nd
V A	C	A	T	I	O	N
Week 23	TOEIC Practice & Others					Week of May 13th
Week 24	Q.C.M. 8 Week, TOEIC Practice & Others					Week of May 20th

$\rightarrow \text{O}_3/\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Deadly Mistakes (resulting in 9/20 and under)

- ✓ 's' for the 3rd person singular
 - ✓ Adjectives **never** take an 's' (EGU units 98-99)
 - ✓ Adjectives **always** come before the noun

Modals + BV (can, must, may, might, should, could, shall, etc.) → she canØ singØ very well (EGU units 21-22, 26-37)

Present	Future
Can	will be able to
Must	will have to

Pronouns :

Subject	I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
Object	Me	You	Him	Her	It	Us	You	Them
Possessive adjectives	My	Your	His	Her	Its	Our	Your	Their
Possessive pronouns	Mine	Yours	His	Hers	-	Ours	Yours	Theirs
Reflexive pronouns	Myself	Yourself	Himself	Herself	Itself	Ourselves	Yourselves	Themselves

Relative pronouns : (EGU units 92-93)

- ✓ Somebody → WHO
 - ✓ Something → WHICH

A few grammatical reminders :

- ✓ There is + sing There are + plural ! il y a 2 ans → 2 years ago + past
- ✓ La plupart des gens → Ømost Øpeople or most of the people (**EGU units 88**)
- ✓ Beaucoup → much + singular many + plural (**EGU units 69C, 87,**) a lot of or Ø lots of (**EGU units 87B-C**)
- ✓ Malgré + noun → despite the noise/in spite of the noise... Bien que + verb → Although they are noisy... (**EGU unit 113**)
- ✓ Good → better than → the best Bad → worse than → the worst
- ✓ On (the) one hand..., on the other hand

Beware of these words :

- ✓ 'I work in a big **company**' but 'We live in a consumer **society**'
- ✓ 'Children shouldn't talk to **strangers**' but 'Many **foreigners** visit Paris in the summer'
- ✓ 'I like **economics**' but 'What's Spain's **economic** situation' and Mr. Samuelson is a famous **economist**.' but 'This car is **economical**'
- ✓ 'I like **politics**' but 'The **political** situation of Greece is not very stable right now' and 'Politicians never tell the truth' but 'The government's **policy** isn't fair'

Spelling :

- ✓ Capital letters for - days of the week and months (**Monday, October**)
 - adjectives and nouns related to nationality (French people, Americans)
 - names of anything (**Seine river**)
 - I (je)
 - Of course, a sentence starts with a capital letter too.
- ✓ 1 man → 2 men 1 woman → 2 women 1 child → 2 children 1 person → 2 people
- ✓ Un autre → **another** les autres (noun) → the **others** les autres (adj) pays → the **other** countries
- ✓ /C+y/ → /-ies/ 1 party → 2 parties and to cry → she cries but she plays
- ✓ Usefull → useful
- ✓ Ingenier → engineer
- ✓ Nowaday → nowadays
- ✓ Poeple → people
- ✓ Compagny → company
- ✓ Witch → which
- ✓ evry → every

Words / Expressions that DO NOT exist :

- ✓ Informatic → computing/computer science/IT (Information Technology)
- ✓ Actualities → current events
- ✓ To-determinate → to determine

- ✓ ~~To-considerate~~ → to consider
- ✓ ~~Interessant~~ → interesting
- ✓ ~~To-precise~~ → to specify (but, 'Tell me the *precise time* of the show)
- ✓ ~~Scientifics~~ → scientists
- ✓ ~~To-traduce~~ → to translate
- ✓ ~~In-a-first-time/in-a-second-time~~ → First(ly) / Second(ly) / At first / First of all
- ✓ ~~I-realised-a-project~~ → I did a project / I participated in a project/ I worked on a project

Singular and uncountable nouns (1→ a piece of) : (EGU units 69 and 70)

- ✓ News, information, advice, furniture, baggage/luggage, weather, etc.

Prepositions : (EGU units 131, 132)

- ✓ interested in depend on deal with go to want to listen to wait for

!!! Zero tolerance for irregular verbs

False Friends List

English	French	French	English
to achieve	mener à bien, réaliser	achever	to complete
actual	véritable	actuel	current, present
actually	en fait, en réalité	actuellement	now, currently, nowadays....
advertisement	publicité	avertissement	warning
agenda	ordre du jour	agenda	date-book, diary, appointment book
to arrive	arriver (place), atteindre	arriver/réussir à	to succeed in, to manage
		arriver/se produire	to happen
to assist	aider	assister à	to attend
balance	équilibre	balance	scale(s)
basket	panier	baskets	trainers, sneakers
benefit	avantage, bienfait	bénéfices	profits
car	voiture	car	coach
chance	opportunité, hasard	chance	luck
to charge	faire payer, accuser	charger	to load
conductor	chef d'orchestre; receveur(bus)	conducteur	driver
to cry	pleurer	crier	to shout
to deceive	tromper	décevoir	to disappoint
default	défaillance	défaut	fault, flaw
to demand	exiger	demander	to ask
engaged	fiancé; occupé (tel)	engagé	involved; hired
eventually	finalement	éventuellement	possibly
evidence	preuve	évidence; evident	obviousness; evident
figure	chiffre; silhouette	figure	face
to fix	réparer	fixer (look)	to stare (at)
furniture(n.c.)	meubles	fournitures	supplies
gratuity	pourboire; gratification	gratuit	free (of charge)
hazard	risque, danger	hasard	chance, fate
habit	habitude	habit(s)	garment, clothes
to ignore	refuser de prendre en compte	ignorer	not to know, to be unaware of
important	significatif	important	significant, extensive
infant	nouveau-né	enfant	child
to introduce	présenter	introduire	to put in, to insert
issue	numéro (magazine); sujet (debat)	issue	exit, outcome (negociation)
journey	voyage	journée	day
lecture	conférence, cours; sermon	lecture	reading
library	bibliothèque	librairie	bookshop (Br), bookstore (US)
location	emplacement	location	rental, renting, hiring
mercy	pitié, indulgence	merci	thanks, thank you
miserable	malheureux	misérable	poor, destitute
novel	roman	nouvelle (book)	short story
particular	spécial	particulier	individual
to pass an exam	réussir un examen	passer un examen	to take/sit an exam
patron	client (d'un restaurant)	patron	boss
petrol	essence	pétrole	(crude) oil
photograph	photographie	photographe	photographer
phrase	expression	phrase	sentence
physician	docteur, medecin	physicien	physicist
placard	affice, pancarte	placard	cupboard, cabinet, closet
to prevent	empêcher	prévenir	to warn, to tell
profitable	rentable, lucratif	profitable	beneficial, fruitful
to resume	recommencer, reprendre	résumer	to sum up, to summarise
sensible	sensé, raisonnable	sensible	sensitive
surname	nom de famille	surnom	nickname
to survey	examiner, étudier	surveiller	to watch, to monitor, to supervise
sympathetic	compatissant, compréhensif	sympathique	friendly
vacancy	chambre à louer; poste vacant	vacances	holidays (Br), vacation (US)

Toeic Vocabulary

abroad, overseas	à l'étranger
accommodate	loger
accommodation, lodging [U]	logement, hébergement
accountant, book-keeper	comptable
accounting, book-keeping	comptabilité
to ache (headache, stomachache)	faire mal, être douloureux
to acknowledge	reconnaitre, admettre
ad / advert, advertisement	publicité, annonce / publicité
to advertise	faire de la publicité pour ; passer une petite annonce
to advise / adviser, advisor	conseiller / conseiller (ère)
to afford / affordable	pouvoir se permettre, avoir les moyens / abordable
(to) aim, (to) target	viser, cibler ; but
to allocate, to apportion	affecter, allouer, répartir, distribuer (money)
(to) amount	s'élèver à, équivaloir à, revenir à ; somme, quantité
annually	annuellement
applicant / application	candidat, postulant / candidature
to apply (for a job)	poser sa candidature, postuler
to appoint	nommer ; engager (staff) ; fixer (date)
appointment / to make an appointment	un rendez-vous (business, doctor) / fixer un rendez-vous
to assemble / to disassemble, dismantle	monter, assembler / démonter, désassembler, démanteler
assembly line	chaîne de montage
to assess, to appraise / assessment	évaluer / évaluation, estimation
asset / the assets	atout, bien / les biens, le capital, l'actif
to assign, to allot / assignment	assigner, attribuer / devoir, mission, tâche
assurance	conviction, assurance
to attach / attachment	mettre en pièce jointe, joindre / pièce jointe
attorney, lawyer (Br)	avocat
(to) auction	vendre aux enchères ; vente aux enchères
(to) award	récompenser ; prix
aware / awareness [U] / be aware of	conscient, au courant / conscience/ être conscient de
(to) back up	sauvegarder ; sauvegarde
(to) ban	interdire ; un interdit, embargo
bankruptcy / to go bankrupt	faillite / faire faillite
beforehand	à l'avance
(to) bargain	marchander, négocier ; marché, (bonne) affaire
on behalf of	de la part de, au nom de
be in charge of	diriger
bill, check (US)	facture, addition (restaurant), note (hotel)
blue print	plan (building, machine)
board of directors	conseil d'administration
board room	salle de réunion
boarding	embarquement
bond	obligation (Bourse)
bonus	prime, bonification
to book, to reserve / to be booked up	résérer / être complet (plane, hotel)
(book of) specifications	cahier des charges
border	frontière ; bord
to bore, to be/get bored	ennuyer ; s'ennuyer
borrow	emprunter
(to) brake	freiner ; frein

brand, make	marque (du fabricant)
breakthrough	découverte
(to) bribe / bribery	soudoyer, corrompre ; pot-de-vin / corruption
to brief	donner des instructions ; mettre au courant
briefcase	porte-documents, attaché-case
to bring up	aborder, mentionner (subject) ; élever (child)
broker	courtier
to browse (through)	parcourir, feuilleter
cabinet	placard
to cash a cheque	encaisser un chèque
cash machine / cash dispenser	distributeur de billets
cashier	caissier
to call back, to return a call	rappeler au téléphone
to cancel, to call off / cancellation	annuler / annulation
caterer / catering	traiteur, fournisseur (food) / restauration
CEO (Chief Executive Officer)	PDG
to chair / chairman, chairwoman	présider / président(e) (company, organisation)
change [U]	monnaie (coins)
check in / checkout	arriver (hôtel) / régler sa note (hôtel)
civil engineering	travaux publics
civil servant	fonctionnaire
clerk	employé (de bureau)
to clutter / clutter [U], mess, disarray	encombrer / désordre, pagaille
coin / coin-operated	pièce de monnaie / automatique
to come across, to encounter	rencontrer (difficulties, people)
commercial	pub à la radio ou à la télé
commitment	engagement
(to) commute	voyager (everyday) ; trajet
to compete	faire concurrence, rivaliser
competition / competitor	concurrence / concurrent
to complain / complaint	se plaindre / plainte, réclamation
to complete / completion	finir, terminer / achèvement
consumption	consommation
convince	convaincre, persuader
contractor	entrepreneur
to cope	faire face, y arriver
(under) construction	(en) travaux
cost-effective	rentable
costly, dear	cher, coûteux
courier	courrier
cover letter (US), covering letter (Br)	lettre de motivation
coverage	couverture (event, insurance)
crew	équipage, équipe
crowd / crowded, crammed with	foule / bondé, plein (people, things)
currently	actuellement
currency	monnaie (€, \$, £...)
customer, patron, client (business)	client
to customize	fabriquer sur commande, sur mesure
customs	douanes
to cut down on	réduire, diminuer
(to) damage [U]	abîmer ; dégâts, dommages, préjudices
data(base)	(base de) données
deadline / to meet a deadline	date limite / finir (project) dans les temps
deal / deal with	transaction / gérer

(to) deduct	déduire
to delay, to hold up	retarder, différer
to deliver / delivery	livrer / livraison
demand	réclamer
to demonstrate / demonstration	manifester / manifestation (street)
(desktop) computer	ordinateur (de bureau)
department	service, rayon, section (in a company)
department store	grand magasin
to deter / deterrent	décourager, dissuader / dissuasif
(property, real-estate) developer	promoteur (immobilier)
(to) dial	composer (tel) ; cadran
digital	numérique
disabled	handicapé ; en panne
dismissal	renvoi (job)
(to) display	montrer, exposer / étalage, exposition, affichage
disruption	perturbation
domestic	national
to downsize	réduire les effectifs (company)
down payment	acompte
due to	en raison de
drill	perceuse ; exercice (repetition)
economize	économiser
efficient, effective	efficace
elevator, lift (Br)	ascenseur
to be eligible for	être admissible, satisfaire aux conditions requises
emergency	urgence
employment / unemployment	l'emploi / le chômage
enclosed	ci-joint
to ensure, to insure	garantir
to be entitled to	avoir le droit de, à
estimate, quotation, quote	devis
every other (day)	tous les deux (jours)
(senior) executive	cadre (supérieur)
exhibit, exhibition	exposition
to expect / expectation	s'attendre à / attente (hope)
expenses, expenditure [U]	dépenses
expense account	note de frais
expertise	connaissance, compétence
extra	supplémentaire
extend	agrandir
facility / facilitate	installation ; équipement / faciliter
to fail / failure	échouer / échec
fall	chute ; automne
fallout [U]	répercussions (bad), retombées
(to) fan	attiser, aviver ; ventilateur
fare	prix, tarif (journey)
fashionable, trendy	à la mode
to be fast / slow	avancer / retarder (watch, clock)
fee	cotisation, redevance, honoraires
field	champ ; domaine
(to) file	classer ; fiche, dossier
to fill in, out	remplir (form)
(to get a) fine / (to get a) ticket	(recevoir une) amende / (attraper un) P.V.
to fire, to dismiss, to sack	licencier (avec faute)

to fit	aller bien (size for clothes)
to fix, to mend, to repair	fixer, arranger, réparer
flight	vol
(to) flood	inonder ; inondation
(to) focus (on)	se concentrer (sur) ; intérêt principal (speech, text)
folder	chemise (documents)
(to) follow up	suivre l'action
(to) forecast / weather forecast	prévoir ; prévision / météo
foreman, overseer	contremaître, chef d'équipe
forgery, counterfeiting	contrefaçon, falsification, un faux
form	formulaire
fortnight	quinze jours
(to) forward	faire suivre (mail) ; en avant
free (of charge)	gratuit
fulfill (U.S.); fulfil (Br.)	accomplir, réaliser
to fund / funding	subventionner / financement
gate	porte, portail, entrée
to gather / gathering	rassembler, réunir / rassemblement, assemblée
goal ; purpose / on purpose	but, objectif / exprès
go ahead	passer devant
goods	marchandises, articles
(to) graduate	recevoir son diplôme ; un diplômé
graduation	remise/obtention de diplômes
(to) grant	accorder, concéder ; subvention, bourse d'étude
groceries	courses, provisions
gross (GDP, GNP)	brut
growth	croissance
to hand out / in	distribuer / rendre, remettre (report, homework)
to handle	gérer
hard-hat	casque (building site)
hardware [U]	matériel informatique ; quincaillerie
harmful	nuisible, nocif
(to) harvest	moissonner, récolter (information, corn) ; moisson, récolte
hassle	pagaille, dérangement
long-haul / medium-haul flight	vol long-courrier / moyen-courrier
headline	gros titre
headquarters, head office	maison-mère, siège social
headset	casque audio
to highlight	mettre en relief, souligner, surligner
to hinder, to impede / hindrance, impediment	gêner, entraver / obstacle
to hire, to take on	embaucher
to hitch-hike	faire du stop
(to) hoax	(monter, faire un) canular
(account, passport) holder	titulaire, détenteur
housekeeper	gouvernante
to improve / improvement	améliorer
industrial tribunal	conseil de Prud'hommes
to infer	déduire que, conclure que, insinuer
to inquire, to enquire	se renseigner
installment (U.S.) ; instalment (Br.)	versement (partiel/échelonné)
internship (U.S.), work placement (Br.)	stage en entreprise
interview	entretien
inventory	inventaire
invoice	facture détaillée

to involve	impliquer, entraîner
item	article (shop)
jet lag	décalage horaire
keyboard	clavier
knowledge [U]	connaissances
knowingly, deliberately, intentionally	sciemment
(to) label	étiqueter ; étiquette
labour, work force, manpower	main d'œuvre
laptop	ordinateur portable
last but one	avant dernier
latecomer	retardataire
to launch	lancer (product, project, rocket)
lawsuit, trial, (court) action	procès
to lay off, to make redundant (Br)	licencier (économique)
layout	mise en page
leaflet	prospectus, dépliant
(to) lease	louer ; bail
(sick, maternity, paid) leave [U]	congé
leisure	loisir, temps libre
to be likely	être probable, être susceptible de
litter, trash, garbage [U]	détritus, ordures
liability	responsabilité
license(US);licence(Br)	autorisation
(to) load / to download / to unload	charger ; charge / télécharger / décharger
(to) loan	prêter ; prêt (money, library), emprunt
lobby	vestibule, hall ; groupe de pression
to locate / location	situer / endroit
to lock	fermer à clé
to log on, in / off, out	(se) connecter / (se) déconnecter
long- term	de longue durée
lost and found	objets trouvés
lounge / departure lounge	salon / salle d'embarquement
luncheon	déjeuner (business, formal)
luncheon voucher (Br), meal ticket (US)	ticket restaurant
mainframe	unité centrale (computer)
maintain	maintenir,garder,conserver
mainstream	principal, dominant, traditionnel (opinion)
(shopping) mall, shopping centre	centre commercial
management	direction / gestion
mandatory	obligatoire
to market	commercialiser
mechanic	mécanicien
to merge / merger	fusionner / fusion
meter	compteur
(to) minute	(rédiger) compte rendu
miscellaneous, sundry	divers (items, expenses)
to monitor, to supervise, to oversee	surveiller
mortgage	hypothèque, prêt immobilier
narrow	étroit
network	réseau
news stand	kiosque (à journaux)
(bank)note, bill (US)	billet de banque
to occur	avoir lieu, se passer
odd jobs [pl.]	petits boulots

onlooker	badaud, spectateur (in the street)
to operate, to work, to run	faire fonctionner
(switchboard) operator	standardiste
(to) order / order form	commander ; commande / bon de commande
outlet	prise de courant
(to) outline	exposer les grandes lignes ; plan (essay, exposé)
output	production
to outsource / outsourcing	sous-traiter / sous-traitance
outstanding	remarquable ; impayé (adj.)
outdated	périmé, démodé
overall	total
overdraft	découvert (compte)
overdue	en retard (train, payment, bill)
overheads	frais généraux
overly	trop, excessivement
(to work, to do) overtime	(faire des) heures supplémentaires
overview	vue d'ensemble
to owe	devoir (money, favour)
owner	propriétaire
to pack	emballer ; faire sa valise
panel	panneau ; comité
parcel (Br), package (US)	colis
parking lot, car park	parking
(to) patent	faire breveter ; brevet d'invention
pattern	modèle, exemple
patron	parrain, client
pavement (Br), sidewalk (US)	trottoir, chaussée
payee / payer	bénéficiaire / payeur
pay-slip	bulletin de salaire
to perform, to carry out	accomplir, exécuter
personnel agency	agence pour l'emploi
(to) plan	faire des projets, projeter de ; projet
plant	usine, centrale
platform	quai (station)
to plug in	brancher
policy	politique, règles, police (d'assurance)
(opinion) poll	sondage (d'opinion) ; vote
position	situation, poste (work)
(to) post	afficher ; poster ; poste (work)
to postpone, to put off/back	remettre à plus tard, reporter
power	pouvoir ; courant électrique
premises	locaux, lieux
to prevent (from)	empêcher
prior to, before	avant
proposal	proposition
prospects (pl.)	débouchés, perspectives (career)
(to) purchase	acheter ; achat
to put out	éteindre (cigarette, fire)
quarter	quart ; trimestre ; quartier
range	gamme, panel
at random, randomly	au hasard
rate	taux
raw / raw material	cru / matière première
real estate / real-estate agent, realtor	l'immobilier / agent immobilier

receipts	recettes (money taken)
(upon) receipt	dès réception
reference (letter)	lettre de recommandation
(to) refund	rembourser ; remboursement, ristourne
regardless	indifférent à
to register	s'inscrire
reliable, trustworthy	fiable, digne de confiance
to remain	rester
reminder	rappel, pense-bête
remote / remote control	à distance, éloigné / télécommande
(to) rent	louer ; loyer
representative	représentant
(to) request	demander ; demande, requête
to require / requirements	exiger, nécessiter / exigences, conditions requises
to resign / resignation	démissionner / démission
(to) resort	recourir à, avoir recours à / station (holiday)
résumé, CV	CV
to retail	vendre au détail
to retire / retirement	prendre sa retraite / retraite
to run	diriger
rush hour, peak hours	heures de pointe
safe / safety	coffre fort ; sûr / sécurité
on, for sale / sales	en vente / ventes ; soldes
sample	échantillon
scale	graduation, échelle, barème
(to) schedule / to be behind schedule	planifier ; emploi du temps / avoir du retard (project)
scheduled flight	vol régulier
second-hand	d'occasion
Sellotape(Br.) Scotchtape(Am.)	scotch
shareholder	actionnaire
sharp	tranchant ; précis (3 o'clock sharp)
shelf	étagère
(to) shift	changer ; période de travail d'une équipe
to ship, to consign, to dispatch	expédier, envoyer
shipping charges	frais d'envoi
shopkeeper	commerçant, marchand
shortage, lack	carence, pénurie, manque
shortcoming, defect, fault	défaut
shower	douche ; averse
sightseeing	tourisme
to sign on/up, to enrol	s'inscrire, s'engager (army...)
single	célibataire
size	taille
skilled / unskilled	qualifié / non-qualifié
skills	capacités, compétences, qualifications
skyscraper	gratte-ciel
slide	diapositive, écran de présentation
sneakers, trainers (Br)	chaussures de sport
to soar, to skyrocket, to spiral	monter en flèche
software [U]	logiciel
sometime	à un moment (past), un jour ou l'autre (future)
to sort (out)	trier, classer
spendthrift, extravagant	dépensier
spokesperson, spokesman	porte-parole

(to) spot	repérer, trouver, remarquer ; emplacement ; tache
(to) stack	empiler ; pile (documents, files)
(to) stamp	affranchir, tamponner ; timbre
to stand in, to cover (for sb) / stand-in	remplacer / remplaçant
to stand out	se profiler, ressortir ; tenir bon
to come to / to be at a standstill	s'immobiliser, s'arrêter / être au point mort
(to) staple ; stapler	agrafe(r) ; agrafeuse
stationery [U], office supplies	fournitures de bureau
steady	régulier, constant
stock exchange, stock market	la Bourse
(to) stock	approvisionner, stocker ; action (en Bourse), fonds, réserve
to stop over / stopover	faire escale / escale
to strengthen	renforcer
(to) stress, to emphasize / stressful	souligner, insister sur / stressant
(to go on) strike	(faire) la grève
to be stuck	être coincé, bloqué
to struggle	avoir du mal à
to subscribe / subscription	s'abonner, souscrire / abonnement
to subside	s'atténuer, décroître
subsidiary, branch	filiale, succursale, agence
to sue, to prosecute	poursuivre en justice, intenter un procès
(to) suit	convenir, bien aller / costume
convenable, approprié	
to summon, to call in	convoquer, faire venir
sunny spell	éclaircie
to supply, to provide	fournir
surroundings	les environs, les alentours
(to) survey	faire une étude sur / une étude, une enquête
takeover / takeover bid	rachat / OPA (offre publique d'achat)
(to) target	viser, s'adresser à ; cible
tariff	taxe douanière ; tarif (restaurant, hotel)
task	tâche
to temp / temp, temporary worker	faire de l'intérim / intérimaire
temping agency	agence d'intérim
tenant	résident, locataire
thorough	méthodique, approfondi
third party	tiers, une tierce personne
to threaten / threat	menacer / menace
threshold	seuil, palier
thrifty	économne
to thrive	prospérer, réussir
(single) ticket (Br), (one-way) ticket (US)	billet (aller simple)
(return) ticket (Br), (round-trip) ticket (US)	billet (aller-retour)
time-consuming	qui prend beaucoup de temps
timely	opportun, qui tombe à point nommé
tip, gratuity	pourboire
tire, tyre (Br)	pneu
toll / toll-free number	péage / numéro vert
(to) tour	visiter ; visite, voyage
(to) trade	(faire du) commerce
to train / trainee	former / stagiaire, jeune recrue
training course	formation, stage de formation
(to) transfer	muter ; virer (money) ; virement
(to) trap	piéger ; piège

trend	tendance
trustee	administrateur
to turn down	refuser, rejeter, repousser (offer, application)
turnover	chiffre d'affaires
to type (up)	taper à la machine
typo	faute de frappe, coquille typographique
(trade) union	syndicat
(social) unrest [U]	agitation (sociale)
upcoming	à venir, prochain
(to) update	mettre à jour ; mise à jour
(to) upgrade	améliorer ; amélioration
usually	généralement
VAT (Value Added Tax)	TVA
volunteer	volontaire, bénévole
wage, salary, pay / income	salaire / revenus
waiter, waitress / to wait on	serveur, serveuse / servir (restaurant)
warehouse	entrepôt, magasin
warning	avertissement
(to) waste	gaspiller, perdre (time) ; gaspillage, gâchis ; déchet
wasteful	gaspilleur, peu rentable
weak/to weaken	faible / affaiblir
wealth [U]	richesse(s)
wholesale / wholesaler, wholesale dealer	vente en gros / grossiste
withdrawal	retrait (cash)
withdraw	retenir (de qch)
wire, cord	fil, câble
word processing	traitement de texte
works, workers' council	comité d'entreprise
yearly	annuel
yield	production, rendement

English-speaking Countries

In groups of three/four, students choose names of countries from the list they are given. They should do research on their own. **Written reports do not need to be turned in**, but the oral presentations should use complete sentences. The oral presentation should not last more than 40 minutes per group.

Materials:

World Map – students will show where the country is located

Flags – students will hang or hold the flag

National Anthem – students can include a recording of the national anthem to be played at end of the presentation.

Any other ideas (PowerPoint etc.) are welcome !

Presentations should include:

Geographic location of the country (using prepositions of location), population, capital city, largest cities, climate, culture, food, music, currency, president/prime minister, national anthem, other official languages besides English, size in relation to France (larger or smaller?), famous tourist attractions, etc.

Or

Students act as travel agents and describe the country in a way that is an advertisement for tourism and encourages tourists to visit; include price of plane ticket from France, exchange rates, ways of getting around (car rental, public transportation?), what to see, do, eat, etc.

Or

Any other role playing ideas you may have.

Audience:

Audience should be taking notes on reports. After each student gives report, the group asks questions to the audience.

Homework:

After all reports are finished, students will have to write an essay (250 words) on ‘ which Anglophone country they would most like to visit/study/work in and why.’

The “Ten Commandments” for a good presentation

1. Understand your subject and be sure to emphasize key points
2. Keep it simple
3. Rehearse your presentation
4. Don't read
5. Use your notes
6. Keep an eye on your timing
7. Vary your tone, speak loudly and clearly
8. Connect to the audience, look at your listeners
9. Connect with people's emotion, make them laugh or cry
10. Express yourself and be energetic

Articles for General English, 2012-13,
First Semester

Teacher: Fuji Frank



Is GPS all in our heads?

Meanwhile

JULIA FRANKENSTEIN

It's a question that probably every driver with a Garmin navigation device on her dashboard has asked herself at least once: What did we ever do before GPS? How did people find their way around, especially in places they'd never been before?

Like most questions asked in our tech-dependent era, these underestimate the power of the human mind. It is surprisingly good at developing "mental maps" of an area, a skill new research shows can grow stronger with use. The question is, with disuse — say, by relying on a GPS device — can we lose the skill, too?

The notion of a mental map isn't new. In the 1940s, the psychologist Edward C. Tolman used rats in mazes to demonstrate that "learning consists not in stimulus-response connections but in the building up in the nervous system of sets which function like cognitive maps."

This concept is widely accepted today. When exploring a new territory, we perceive landmarks along a route. By remembering their position and the spatial relations between the streets, locations and landmarks we pass, we are able to develop survey knowledge (stored in the mind like a mental map), which enables us to indicate directions, find shortcuts or detours.

It's not all in our heads, though: physical maps help us build cognitive maps. By depicting the spatial relations in a big context, they provide a useful reference to integrate navigational experience.

In one experiment, I had 26 residents of Tübingen, Germany, navigate a three-

dimensional model of their hometown by wearing head-mounted displays. My team and I asked them to point to well-known locations around town not visible from their current perceived position.

Varying their viewing direction — facing north, facing east — we then assessed their pointing error. All participants performed best when facing one particular direction, north, and the pointing error increased with increasing deviation from north. In other words, by using knowledge gained from navigation to link their perceived position to the corresponding position on a city map, participants could easily retrieve the locations from their memory of city maps — which, after all, are typically oriented north.

If maps help us, what is the problem with GPS? A lot: in my opinion, it is likely that the more we rely on technology to find our way, the less we build up our cognitive maps. Unlike a city map, a GPS device normally provides barebones route information, without the spatial context of the whole area. We see the way from A to Z, but we don't see the landmarks along the way. Developing a cognitive map from this reduced information is a bit like trying to get an entire musical piece from a few notes.

Our brains act economically: they try to decrease the amount of information to be stored (e.g., by relating new thoughts to already known content) and avoid storing unnecessary information. That may be the unconscious appeal of a GPS, but it means we're not pushing our brains to work harder. And a GPS device may even contradict your mental map by telling you to go left (e.g., for a faster highway) while your target is actually to the right. All of this leads us to use our mental maps even less.

But shouldn't we just accept that

IHT, Feb. 9, 2012

GPS is a good substitute for old-fashioned maps? No. Navigational devices can be time-savers, but they can easily become crutches. Break your GPS, and you may find yourself lost.

And there is more: The psychologist Eleanor A. Maguire and her colleagues at University College London found that spatial experience actually changes brain structures. As taxi drivers learned the spatial layout of London, the gray matter in their hippocampal areas — that is, the areas of the brain integrating spatial memories — increased. But if the taxi drivers' internal GPS grew stronger with use, it stands to reason that the process is reversible after disuse. You may degrade your spatial abilities when not training them, as with someone who learned a musical instrument and stopped playing.

Navigating, keeping track of one's position and building up a mental map by experience is a very challenging process for our brains, involving memory (remembering landmarks, for instance) as well as complex cognitive processes (like calculating distances, rotating angles, approximating spatial relations). Stop doing these things, and it'll be harder to pick them back up later.

How to avoid losing our mental maps? The answer, as always, is practice.

Next time you're in a new place, forget the GPS device. Study a map to get your bearings, then try to focus on your memory. City maps do not tell you each step, but they provide a wealth of abstract survey knowledge. Fill in these memories with your own navigational experience, and give your brain the chance to live up to its abilities.

JULIA FRANKENSTEIN is a psychologist at the Center for Cognitive Science at the University of Freiburg.

Tips for deciding when your child is

I.H.T. Aug. 10, 2012.

(2)

old enough to have a cellphone

Tool Kit

SAM GROBART

NEW YORK Wendy Sue Swanson, a pediatrician in Seattle, knows that a 9-month-old baby can perform some basic acts of imitation. You might expect smiling, blinking and some other facial expressions and gestures. But you know what she is seeing a lot of?

"I ask parents if their child pretends to talk on a cellphone," Dr. Swanson said. "Almost all of them do."

Now, 9 months may be a little young, but if you are a parent, at some point you are going to have to deal with the question of whether to give your child a mobile phone.

Unlike R-rated movies or a learner's permit, there are no clear rules that dictate when a child can or should have a phone. "Like any parenting issue, everyone has an opinion," said Dr. Swanson, who writes a blog about parenting and health for Seattle Children's Hospital.

But Dr. Swanson suggested that there was some consensus developing that the 11- to 13-year-old age range is

an acceptable time to equip your child with a phone. That lines up with what many families are doing: A 2009 survey showed that the majority of U.S. children who had cellphones had gotten them by the time they turned 13.

But what kind of phone should you get, and what can you do to your child's phone to help manage its use?

For starters, it seems fairly ridiculous to equip your 11- or 12-year-old with a full-fledged smartphone. Its myriad capabilities, combined with a child's — let's call it what it is — terrible judgment is a recipe for headaches at best.

Major wireless carriers also offer phones and services that promise easy family controls. One thing you may want to consider is getting your child a prepaid phone, which you can do through the major carriers or prepaid-only companies.

Given their low prices, many prepaid handsets have limited capabilities, and with a prepaid voice and data plan, there is a built-in limit to how much your child can use the phone. Who knows? Maybe they will even learn the value of budgeting.

No matter what kind of handset you get for your child, you should also become familiar with the various parental controls carriers offer. Every carrier has a different combination of features and services, but generally speaking,



OLIVIA HARRIS/REUTERS

A 6-year-old and her mother trying out a Samsung smartphone in London. A consensus is developing around the 11- to 13-year-old range as acceptable for that first cellphone.

they all try to do the same few things: restrict access to inappropriate apps and sites, limit usage and offer location-tracking services. Expect to pay about \$5 extra a month to use those services.

If your child is using a smartphone, there are controls you can enable on the device side of the equation as well.

Parents of young iPhone users should check out the Restrictions menu in Settings (go to Settings, then General, then Restrictions). After creating a password (so that little Sammy cannot undo your handiwork), you will be able to control access to individual apps, control purchases made online and disable

location services for any or all apps.

Android devices do not have built-in parental controls, but that is easy to fix. Free apps like Android Parental Controls and apps from online security companies like Norton and Kaspersky add filtering and blocking tools so you can limit what your young mobile user encounters with his phone.

Now, you can get just the right phone, configure it and enable all the right services and controls, but you know that is not going to be enough, right? The truth is, no number of settings and preferences can replace parenting and the practice of good habits. "Don't retreat once you've set it up," Dr. Swanson advised.

And do not let your lack of interest in or knowledge about technology create an open space for your child to explore. "You need to understand the technology as much as — if not more than — your child," Dr. Swanson said. "It's like learning a new language — and remember that kids learn new languages

much faster than adults do."

You may want to lay down some usage rules of your own — ones not governed by a preferences panel. One thing to consider is a curfew for any cell or smartphone use. Add to that a prohibition against any screen time — smartphone, computer or tablet — before bed. "We know that looking at a

screen before bedtime inhibits a healthy sleep pattern," Dr. Swanson said. "And we also know that getting a good night's sleep is directly related to attention spans and classroom performance, so there's a continuity there that you can play a role in."

Keeping screens away from children also means keeping things like mobile phones out of their rooms at night. Keep the recharging cord in the kitchen, not your child's bedroom. "If you don't believe a child should have a TV in his or her room, and many parents agree with that, then there shouldn't be a cellphone in there either," Dr. Swanson said.

If you think about how addicted grown men and women can be when it comes to their phones, consider how much more powerful that urge can be with a child or a teenager. Neurological studies have shown that children's and teenagers' brains are not developed enough to exercise self-restraint at all times.

As with any electronic device, the goal here is to establish a sense of balance and moderation.

"We want these rich experiences on earth for our children," Dr. Swanson said. "And part of that comes from the amazing technology we have access to, and part of that is because we also turn it off."

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An affront to love?

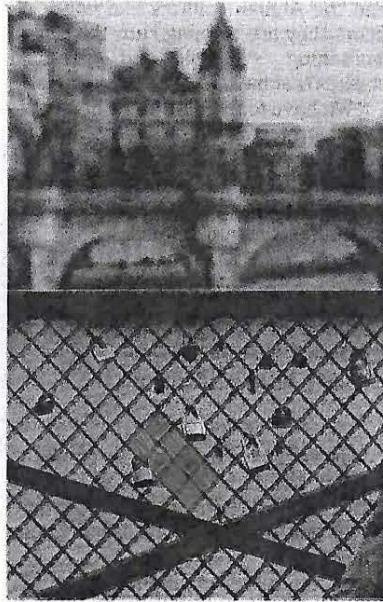
Agnès C. Poirier

PARIS Parisians can't remember when it all began. At first, the appearance of the locks was nearly imperceptible. Soon, though, they felt like a statement. On some of the city's most iconic bridges, thousands of visitors left small padlocks, neatly attached to the metal railings.

Once discreet, doing their deed at night, visitors soon acted in broad daylight, in pairs, photographing each other in front of their locks, and videotaping the throwing of the keys into the Seine. The Paris town hall expressed concern: what about the architectural integrity of the Parisian landscape? One night about two years ago, someone cut through the wires and removed all the locks on one of the bridges. But in just a few months, locks of all sizes and colors reappeared, more conspicuous than ever.

For couples visiting from all over the world, these locks were symbols of their everlasting love. Indeed, in other cities the locks have also caught on as an expression of passion — in Seoul, Budapest, Rome and Tokyo.

Living in one of the world's most visited cities, with 27 million visitors a year, and supposedly the world's capital of romance, Parisians should have guessed from the beginning that this strange ritual had to do with the fantasy of everlasting love. Yet, instead of sharing the naïve joy of the world's Romeos and Juliets, some Parisians have felt increasingly irritated. Walking on those bridges has become almost insufferable for them. The pain doesn't come only



CHARLES PLATIAU/REUTERS

from the fact that some bridges, like Pont de l'Archevêché and Pont des Arts, now feel as if they could collapse under the weight of tourists' undying love but also from the idea that a lock could represent love. Such an idea is abhorrent to many French people.

"The fools! They haven't understood a thing about love, have they?" was the conclusion recently of a 23-year-old waiter at Panis, a café on the Left Bank with a view over Notre-Dame. At the heart of love à la française lies the idea of freedom. To love truly is to want the other free, and this includes the freedom to walk away. Love is not about possession or property. Love is no prison where two people are each other's slaves. Love is not a commodity, either.

Love is not capitalist, it is revolutionary. If anything, true love shows you the way to selflessness.

To understand love in the French style, you need to go back to the 16th century and the emergence of the libertines. If today the word means "dissolute person," in France it has also retained its 16th-century flavor, carrying with it an air of much-envied audacity and liberty. Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir famously never married and never lived together and, although a couple in the absolute sense of the term, they had lasting and meaningful relationships with strings of brilliant minds and pretty faces. They were deemed jealousy bourgeois and banal.

You're reading this and you're thinking: "You mean, like Dominique Strauss-Kahn?!" The man we call D.S.K. has certainly tarnished the French concept of love. His lifestyle belongs to the sordid, rather than the realm of love as liberty. I suggest we all forget about D.S.K.

In his recent book, "In Praise of Love," the French philosopher Alain Badiou reminds us that love implies constant risk. There is no safe, everlasting love. The idea that you can lock two people's love once and for all, and toss the key, is a puerile fantasy. For Mr. Badiou, love is inherently hazardous, always on the brink of failure and above all vulnerable. Embrace its fragility, wish your beloved to be free and you might just, only just, have a chance to retain his or her undying gratitude, and love. But don't ever dream of locks and throwing keys overboard, especially not in Paris.

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Toys start the gender equality rift



Katrin Bennhold

THE FEMALE FACTOR

LONDON The following conversation was overheard one recent morning at Hamleys, London's best-known toy store:

Mother with baby carriage, scanning a white-and-red store map, to sales clerk: "I need a present for my niece. Where is the girls' department, please?"

Salesperson: "On the second floor."

Mother: "It would help if it was marked out more clearly, you know."

Three things are striking in this exchange: A "niece" requires a "girl's present"; toys are organized by sex, even if they aren't explicitly marked as such; and mothers play a key role in nurturing stereotypes that later in life become one of the most stubborn barriers to gender equality, with cascading implications for women's interests, skills and status in society.

The mother can't have been the only customer confused by a gender-neutral store map. Eight months after Hamleys replaced "girl" and "boy" signposts following an anti-stereotyping campaign, it overhauled it again: The second floor is now demarcated with bright pink. It doesn't say "for girls." But the dollhouses and kiddie makeup leave no doubt who the target group is.

"Girls' toys are often about beauty and the home, while toys for boys are mostly about being active, building things and having adventures," said Laura Nelson, a neuroscientist who led the campaign against Hamleys last year and runs Breakthrough, a project combating stereotyping in schools. "Gender-specific color-coding influences the activities children choose, the skills they build and ultimately the roles they take in society."

Male and female stereotypes are established early: It is not hard to see a connection between girls playing with dolls and boys playing with cars, and the widespread segregation of labor markets into "female" and "male" professions. Nurses, primary school teachers and caregivers of most kinds are overwhelmingly female. Engineers, computer scientists and mechanics tend to be male.

This segregation matters: It helps explain a stubborn pay gap between men and women, as the caregiving professions generally pay less than technical jobs. Women earn on average 16 percent less than men in the member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. They account for more than 70 percent of health, social and education workers but make up less than a quarter of employees in mining, manufacturing and construction.

Stereotypes also help explain why few women have made it into leadership positions even in countries that have gone furthest in leveling the playing field at home: In Sweden, where parents can share 13 months of paid baby leave and are guaranteed a place in a subsidized preschool thereafter, women still make up only 23 percent of senior managers. Leadership is associated with "male" qualities like aggressiveness and risk-taking.

Which brings us back to Hamleys, where these qualities were on ample display on the blue-coded fourth floor: Amid miniature soldiers and plastic sabers, little boys were seen sparring noisily. Two floors down, girls were rocking baby dolls to sleep. On the store's Web site, the drop-down menu under "Dolls" is pink, while the drop-down menu under "Action Toys" is blue. Both categories offer "Roleplay & Dress-Up," but if the pink section touts princess dresses and "My First Dolly's Tea Set," the blue section sells a police officer outfit and a "Build Your Own Screwdriver" set.

Some things have changed. Most girls these days do play with Lego, and some boys love their play stoves. Toddlers of both sexes are crazy about smartphones.

Indeed, in one sign of growing awareness, Harrods, the legendary department store, introduced its new Toy Kingdom last month with six gender-nonspecific zones from an "Enchanted Forest" to "Wonderland." But female staff members wear pink T-shirts and their male colleagues blue ones — and the dolls in the "Enchanted Forest" attracted mainly girls, while boys crowded around the trains in "Wonderland."

According to Ms. Nelson, displaying toys by theme rather than sex is an important first step, but she warned: "Until the toys themselves and the marketing are tackled, there will always be pressure on girls and boys to pursue the route in life consistent with their stereotype."

It is a gigantic task, and one that goes well beyond the realm of toy stores.

One measure, gender equality experts say, would be for schools to take a hard look at established practices and language, possibly with a nudge from lawmakers. Swedish preschool teachers, for example, get gender equality training, and schools vet books for stereotypes. Toy makers may then have an incentive to follow.

Beyond that, adults have to be better role models: Much attention has been spent on attracting women into engineering jobs, not least because of skill shortages. But breaking down the stereotype of the caring female also means making space for the caring male — i.e., the male nursery teacher, the male elderly caregiver and the male midwife.

This could have surprising payoffs for both genders: When a shortage of midwives in France led to a recruitment drive for men, both educational requirements and pay had to be raised to lure them, benefiting the whole of this mostly female profession.

Perhaps blue toy strollers and pink toy screwdriver sets would be a good start?

Against nostalgia

Steve Jobs created technological magic, but the magic has its costs.

Mike Daisey

undoubtedly set his teeth on edge. Many of Silicon Valley's leaders regularly ask themselves "What would Steve do?" in an almost religious fashion when facing challenges, and it is a worthy mental exercise for confronting the fact of his death. I think Jobs would coldly and clearly assess his life and provide unvarnished criticism of its contents. He'd have no problem acknowledging that he was a genius — as he was gifted with an enormously healthy ego — but he would also state with salty language exactly where he had fallen short, and what might be needed to refine his design with the benefit of hindsight.

Steve Jobs was an enemy of nostalgia. He believed that the future required sacrifice and boldness. He bet on new technologies to fill gaps even when the way was unclear. He often told the press that he was as proud of the devices Apple killed — in the parlance of Silicon Valley, he was a master of "knifing the baby," which more squeamish innovators cannot do because they fall in love with their creations — as the ones it released. One of the keys to Apple's success under his leadership was his ability to see technology with an unsentimental eye and keen scalpel, ready to cut loose whatever might not be essential. He created a sense of style in computing, because he could edit.

It would be fascinating to know what Jobs would make of the outpouring of grief after his death on Wednesday. While it's certain he'd be flattered, his hawk-eyed nature might assert itself: this is a man who once called an engineer at Google over the weekend because the shade of yellow in the second "Q" was not precisely correct. His impatience with fools was legendary, and the amount of hagiography now being ladled onto his life with abandon would

load from Apple's servers, which Apple controls and curates, choosing at its whim what can and can't be distributed, and where anything can be censored with little or no explanation.

The Steve Jobs who founded Apple as an anarchic company promoting the message of freedom, whose first projects with Stephen Wozniak were pirate boxes and computers with open schematics, would be taken aback by the future that Apple is forging. Today there is no tech company that looks more like the Big Brother from Apple's iconic 1984 commercial than Apple itself, a testament to how quickly power can corrupt.

Apple's rise to power in our time directly paralleled the transformation of global manufacturing. As recently as 10 years ago Apple's computers were assembled in the United States, but today they are built in southern China under appalling labor conditions. Apple, like the vast majority of the electronics industry, skirts labor laws by subcontracting all its manufacturing to companies like Foxconn, a firm made infamous for suicides at its plants, a worker dying after working a 34-hour shift, widespread beatings, and a willingness to do whatever it takes to meet high quotas set by tech companies like Apple.

I have traveled to southern China and interviewed workers employed in the production of electronics. I spoke with a

man whose right hand was permanently curled into a claw from being smashed in a metal press at Foxconn, where he worked assembling Apple laptops and iPads. I showed him my iPad, and he gasped because he'd never seen one turned on. He told my translator, "It's a kind of magic."

Jobs's magic has its costs. We can admire the design perfection and business acumen while acknowledging the truth: with Apple's immense resources at his command he could have revolutionized the industry to make devices more humanely and more openly, and chose not to. If we view him unsparingly, without nostalgia, we would see a great man whose genius in design, showmanship and stewardship of the tech world will not be seen again in our lifetime. We would also see a man who in the end failed to "think different," in the deepest way, about the human needs of both his users and his workers.

It's a high bar, but Jobs always believed passionately in brutal honesty, and the truth is rarely kind. With his death, the serious work to do the things he has failed to do will fall to all of us: the rebels, the misfits, the crazy ones who think they can change the world.

MIKE DAISEY is an author and performer.

His latest monologue, "The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs," is scheduled to open at the Public Theater on Tuesday.

HT, Oct 8, 2011

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I.H.T. Aug. 14, 2012

Prime time for robots

Disruptions

NICK BILTON

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA Millions of people watched a robot descend last week on Mars, about 154 million miles away, while it shared video, photos and status updates from its own Twitter account.

I had my own encounter with a robot last week. I had dinner with one — right here in Silicon Valley.

The dinner was held at Willow Garage, a robotics company in Menlo Park, and was intended to introduce reporters to the robots the company is building.

The main attraction was the PR2, which can pick things up, fold laundry, open doors and bring cups, plates and other small objects to people.

The PR2 is pretty stunning to see in action. Its price, \$400,000 for the fully functional version, is pretty stunning, too. And although it is impressive to watch, it is still easily baffled by the mundane.

At the dinner, one of the PR2s dropped a soda can on the floor and just stood there, befuddled. It could not figure out what had happened to the can. It was as if it had just performed a wonderful magic trick on itself.

It is hard to know how many robots are in use today because roboticists disagree on what a robot is. Must it have arms or artificial intelligence or facial recognition? The earliest definition of the word, which comes from the Czech word *robotika*, means "forced labor" or "slave."

Robotics companies give various estimates for the numbers of robots in use. Whatever the numbers, people like Steve Cousins, Willow Garage's president and chief executive, think robots will become a lot more mainstream in the not-too-distant future.

They point to the Roomba and other robots made by iRobot, which that company says are already cleaning floors, pools and roof gutters in more than eight million homes and offices. The U.S. Army has robots to disarm bombs on the battlefield. And an intimidating robot, Big Dog, made by Boston Dynamics, is being built to help soldiers carry their loads into battle.

Robotics say the price of such machines will begin to drop sharply, which, in turn, will make the use of robots in homes and offices more widespread.

Mr. Cousins said he believed the next wave of robots to enter — or invade —

the home and work force would be telepresence robots. These machines have a built-in screen and camera and are essentially mobile video-chatting terminals that can be controlled from thousands of miles away.

Soon, Mr. Cousins said, such gadgets will be given more functional bodies, including arms, so they can interact in a physical space.

"Today's telepresence robots let you be somewhere," he said. "When you add arms to these things, they will let you act somewhere, too."

He added, "I think these robots are going to be huge as they let people warp space and time, letting them be somewhere that they're not, without the cost and time of a flight."

Robert S. Bauer, an executive director at Willow Garage, pointed out that computers were once seen as exotic. In the early 1970s, he said, Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center in California developed a series of sophisticated computers that cost several hundred thousand dollars. But those machines paved the way for today's personal computers.

"Now, 40 years later, everyone has a PC and smartphone in their home and office," Mr. Bauer said. "The same is happening now with robots."

He predicted that the first wave of robots would most likely become "the body for people with physical disabilities."

Wounded warriors, quadriplegics and people with Lou Gehrig's disease, a degenerative nerve disability, would be able to interact with the physical world by controlling robots, he said.

At the dinner, the group discussed other possible applications for robots in the near future.

Some examples included robots that prepared food; swarms of fly-size robots that could patrol a home or office like guards; robots that cleaned the house, did laundry and took out the trash; and robots that could drive cars, maybe even doing a better job than humans do.

Still, robots cannot solve every problem. I asked Mr. Cousins if there would be a robot that could walk my dog, Pixel.

"We actually did that with one of the PR2 robots," he replied. "The robot was fine with it, but the dog didn't seem to like it too much and came back with its tail between its legs."

on Earth, too

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Meet the Beatles, again

Meanwhile

PAUL GREENBERG

"Do the Beatles have any other playlists besides 'Sgt. Pepper's'?"

So asked my 5-year-old as we sat on his bunk bed, staring into his iPod and listening to Ringo Starr sing "With a Little Help From My Friends."

Even on this important year in Beatledom, the 50th anniversary of Ringo's joining the band and finalizing the makeup of the Fab Four, I decided not to pounce on my son with the obvious correction. For Beatle love must flower on its own terms. I would not tell him that "Sgt. Pepper's" was an album, not a playlist. That it was an extremely important album. That a genius had produced it.

Instead I told him that the Beatles did indeed have many playlists, they had fantastic playlists, monumental playlists. Playlists like "Rubber Soul," "Abbey Road" and that magnum opus, "The White ... um, Playlist."

Then another troubling question.

"When the Beatles recorded their playlists, did they record them on voice memo?"

When my son behaves well I temporarily upgrade him from his creaky old legacy iPod and let him tinker on my iPhone. There, thanks to a baby sitter whose name I curse, he has discovered the voice-memo function. He uses voice memo for impromptu jam sessions with himself and crams my phone full of gigabytes until it freezes. Tears often ensue.

"Absolutely not," I told him. "The Beatles never, ever used voice memo. They didn't even have voice memo. They didn't even know what voice memo was."

I went on to tell him that the Beatles put their songs on something flat, circular and black called an album.

"Where is the button on the album that you press to make it record?"

"Yeah, well, you see," I said, scrambling. "They didn't record directly on the album. First they recorded on a tape recorder. A tape recorder has a button."

"But when you use a tape recorder, what do you record on?"

"Tape!"

"Oh, like masking tape?" he said, lunging for the art-supply drawer where both he and I knew three rolls of unused masking tape lay. I grabbed his arm before he could execute his plan.

"No, not masking tape."

"Daddy, you're hurting me."

"Sorry," I said. "But you can't record voice memos on masking tape. They used something else. Something called recording tape."

"Where is our recording tape?"

"We don't have any. Recording tape doesn't exist anymore."

Seeing exasperation, he tried a different line.

"Do the Beatles live in a house?"

Oddly enough, this was something I

I told my son
that the
Beatles put
their songs on
something
flat, circular
and black
called an
album.

can remember wondering myself, back in the early '70s, a few years after the Beatles had torn themselves asunder.

My own first experience of the Beatles was the film "Yellow Submarine," in which, fans will recall, an early scene gives the very dis-

tinct impression that the Beatles do in fact all live together in a house. A giant house with mysterious doors that open and close at random, with surreal claptrap objects pouring out into corridors and the cartoon Beatles following behind in an old roadster.

"Well," I said, "I think sometimes all the Beatles stayed in the same house. But I'm pretty sure each Beatle had his own house."

"Whose house did they go to when they wanted to record playlists?"

Interesting question.

"I guess they probably went to Paul's or John's house."

"Why?"

"Because Paul and John wrote most of the songs. But mostly they went to another house."

"Where was that other house?"

"Abbey Road."

A blank stare. A long pause.

"Can we go to John's house?"

I knew somehow we were headed down this road that led past Abbey.

"No, we can't."

"Why not?"

"Because John is dead."

"How did he die?"

"I don't know," I lied.

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A long pause.

"Who else is dead?"

"George."

"You mean there are only two Beatles left?"

"Yes, I told him. There are only two left. Paul and Ringo. That is it. Paul, a man with a sweet, sweet voice, and Ringo, an endearing, cuddly sort of a guy with a long nose and interesting facial hair."

"How do you know that those Beatles are still alive?"

And then I remembered. All at once it came to me. I had seen Ringo. I had seen him in the flesh. I had been so close to him that I could have reached out and grabbed his crazy mustache. He had come to his stepdaughter's graduation from Brown, and I had walked right past him when I went up to accept my diploma. And I told my son about this now. How Ringo had sat there smiling jauntily, his fingers literally covered in rings. Cool tinted '80s half-shades rounded at the bottom concealed his hooded eyes, but even with all that he looked just like I imagined him. Ringo was exactly 100 percent Ringo.

I told my son all this. About how afterward I'd gone home and packed up my college house and all the while listened to all the Ringo songs on black vinyl discs called albums and how my friends and roommates all young and slim and beautiful and hopeful had danced in the empty space and how we'd all talked about Ringo, how laid back he was, how he was possibly in his own subtle humorous way perhaps the coolest Beatle of them all.

And as I finished my story I realized tears were running down my cheeks and my voice was catching in my throat and I felt a winsome young fluttering feeling in my heart.

My son looked at me and nodded his head. He took a long inhale and looked past me through the window of our apartment.

"Someday," he said wistfully.

"Someday I want to be a Beatle."

PAUL GREENBERG is the author of "Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food."

Is television next in line for a makeover by Apple?

IHT
Oct. 8, 2011

SAN FRANCISCO

BY NICK WINGFIELD
AND AMY CHOZICK

Heard of Apple TV? A lot of people haven't. That is because even though Steven P. Jobs helped upend so many businesses with a string of groundbreaking products in music, mobile phones, games and tablet computers, he barely made a dent in television.

Under Mr. Jobs, Apple dipped its toe only slightly into the television business with Apple TV, a set-top box for accessing Internet video. That product has been one of the rare disappointments in its lineup, especially when compared with smashes like the iPhone and iPad.

But many in the technology industry believe that television is ripe for makeover, and that the next big challenge for Apple, after the death of Mr. Jobs, is likely to be in that medium.

"It's the big area they haven't colonized," said James McQuivey, an analyst at Forrester Research. "It's the thing we spend more of our time on than sleep."

In the meantime, companies like Microsoft have started to take a stronger leadership role in helping to push the technology of television forward, as Apple did in areas like music and mobile phones.

Television is such a tantalizing target in part because people spend so many hours watching it, but also because the industry over all has been slow to innovate, except perhaps in making screens larger. In particular, the consuming public is still waiting for television content — everything that people watch —

"It's the big area they haven't colonized. It's the thing we spend more of our time on than sleep."

to be delivered over the Internet in a convenient, affordable package on all the devices people are now using.

One big reason for Apple's failure to gain traction in television is that Apple TV has not had a compelling source of television and movie content that allows the product to stand out. Although the company's iTunes store is stocked with many popular shows, network and movie studio executives have hesitated to make all of their content widely available at attractive prices, in large part because of concerns about angering cable companies, a big source of their revenue, and their pipelines into living rooms.

In August, Apple discontinued an iTunes rental service that allowed viewers to rent TV episodes for 99 cents through the store for watching on devices like Apple TV, saying consumers were not as interested in renting episodes as in buying them.

Last year, talks between Apple and

television executives, including NBC-Universal, Viacom and Discovery, stalled over a plan to license their programs for an Internet subscription service akin to Netflix and Hulu Plus, according to executives briefed on talks.

The cold shoulder to Apple from TV executives is a stark contrast to the success Mr. Jobs had in wooing the music companies when the iTunes Store was begun eight years ago. At the time, Mr. Jobs used his personal charisma to persuade record executives to let Apple sell songs for 99 cents each through iTunes. It also helped him that the iPod had not yet turned into a blockbuster product.

The subsequent explosion in sales of 99-cent digital singles on iTunes further eroded compact disc sales, many music executives believe. Television executives were determined to avoid the same experience. "It didn't work in TV and movies precisely because it did in music," said Mr. McQuivey of Forrester Research.

Mr. Jobs himself often played down Apple TV's effect on the market. While he used lofty words like "magical" to describe the iPad, Mr. Jobs on more than one occasion referred to the \$99 Apple TV as a "hobby" for Apple because of its lackluster sales. Analysts estimate the company has sold about two million of the devices. It has sold nearly 29 million iPads since the product was introduced in spring 2010.

In an onstage interview last year at the D: All Things Digital conference, Mr. Jobs further expounded on his pessimism about the market. He said it was hard to sell innovative television devices like Apple TV to consumers, when cable companies give their customers a set-top box for little or no cost upfront. "That pretty much squashes any opportunity for innovation because nobody's willing to buy a set-top box," he said.

In the meantime, one of Apple's rivals, Microsoft, announced a major new push into the television business Wednesday, before the announcement of Mr. Jobs's death. The company said it was entering a partnership with nearly 40 television providers that would allow the 35 million members of its Xbox Live online service to watch mainstream cable programming through Microsoft's game console.

The one big catch is that Xbox users will still need to pay their regular monthly television bills to their cable providers to watch the television programming on their game consoles. But executives say the partnership could still make viewers happy because the Xbox is so much friendlier to use than a cable programming guide when searching for things to watch.

Apple TV, while still niche, has fared better than others, like Google TV, said Michael Gartenberg, the research director overseeing consumer technology at Gartner. "We see a lot of experimentation in the TV space and they'll eventually get it right," he said.

1, H.T., Aug 14, 2012

Strict snack laws linked to less weight gain in children

BY SABRINA TAVERNISE

Adolescents in U.S. states with strict laws regulating the sale of snacks and sugary drinks in public schools gained less weight over a three-year period than those living in states with no such laws, a new study has found.

The study, published on Monday in the journal Pediatrics, found a strong association between healthier weight and tough state laws regulating food in vending machines, snack bars and other venues that were not part of the regular school meal programs.

The conclusions are likely to further stoke the debate over what will help reduce obesity rates, which have been rising drastically in the United States since the 1980s.

So far, very little has proved effective,

and rates have remained stubbornly high. About a fifth of American children are obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Public health experts have urged local and state governments to remove such snacks and drinks from schools, and in recent years states have started to pass laws that restrict their sale, either banning them outright or setting limits on the amount of sugar, fat or calories they contain.

The study tracked weight changes for 6,300 students in 40 states from 2004 to 2007, following them from fifth to eighth grade. They used the results to compare weight change over time in states with no laws regulating such food against those in states with strong laws and those with weak laws.

Researchers used a legal database to

analyze state laws. Strong laws were defined as those that set out detailed nutrition standards. Laws were weak if they merely offered recommendations about foods for sale, for example, saying they should be healthy but not providing specific guidelines.

The study stopped short of saying the

stronger laws were more likely to reach

for the better outcomes. It concluded

only that such outcomes tended to nap-

pen in states with stronger laws, but

that the outcomes were not necessarily

the result of those laws. Researchers,

however, added that they controlled for

a number of factors that would have influenced outcomes. Still, the correlation was substantial, researchers said, suggesting that the laws might be a factor.

Students who lived in states with strong laws throughout the entire three-year period gained an average of 0.44 fewer body mass index units, or roughly 2.25 fewer pounds for a 5-foot-tall child, than adolescents in states with no policies. That is an equivalent to 1 kilogram for a 1.5-meter-tall child.

The study also found that obese fifth

graders who lived in states with

stronger laws were more likely to reach

a healthy weight by the eighth grade

than those living in states with no laws.

Students exposed to weaker laws,

however, had weight gains that were

not different from those of students in

states with no laws at all.

Unleashing the maestro

App
Smart

I.H.T.
Aug. 20 2012

KIT EATON

NEW YORK When I was a toddler, my parents introduced me to music-making through a cheap plastic recorder. Later came a secondhand violin and the tireless efforts of my school's choir teacher. It was all fun, even if I found it hard to learn violin the "traditional" way. All I could produce for ages was a horrid squeaking.

I have nevertheless loved music ever since, and happily, my two children seem to have inherited the same passion for music. Nowadays there is a technological trick for getting them to play music, one that gives them the different sounds that an orchestra of instruments can make: smartphones and tablets.

Hence, my 2-year-old and 4-year-old are your part-time reviewers this week.

The first and obvious candidate is the GarageBand app from Apple, at \$5 in the United States, for iPad and iPhone. It is powerful, it can deliver a rich musical output, you can record your playing, and there are lessons for playing guitar and so on. But it is complex and probably best suited to older children. My two toddlers do love the realistic drum section for the din they can create with it, but it takes a lot of supervision to keep them from activating a menu function they cannot operate themselves.

A simpler app you may like to try is the free iOS app Music Sparkles, which has a cartoonish interface with big buttons for children's

My two toddlers do love the realistic drum section for the din they can create.

fingers. A xylophone and drum section are free, but you have to pay (via the app) to unlock an assortment of other instruments, including saxophone and pan pipes. The playable instruments sound good, and there is the option to have simple backing music from drums, piano and other instruments. There is even a section that has interactive musical notation with voices singing the musical scale.

If you are a musical expert you may doubt its educational value, but it is definitely a fun way to introduce children to the idea of making music. My one gripe is that it is easy (and tempting) for children to tap on the "locked" instruments you have to buy before playing.

Simpler still is the iPad and iPhone app Keys Kids Play, \$1 for U.S. users, which is even more cartoonish — backing tracks are activated by tapping on a picture of a sleeping animal, for example. It is very cute, and my 2-year-old loved the animal aspect of it. Both children enjoyed the range of sounds they could make, and they adored the weird alien segment, where tapping on parts of a U.F.O. activated a host of strange music sounds and percussive noises.

in your child

10

A more "proper" music app, aimed at older children, is Go Go Xylo (free on iOS), which centers on a tappable xylophone. This app has a couple of full tunes built in, along with vocals if you choose, and it highlights the musical notes and corresponding xylophone bars as the tunes play. If you can explain what is going on, it is a good way to get children used to the idea of written music. There is also a beautifully animated segment of the app that has interactive instruments like horns and a Swanee whistle. When the children tap on an instrument, they hear a sample of its sounds and the image moves — the saxophone's horn bellows, cowbells wobble and the harp's strings vibrate and emit stars. My youngest son adored that bit.

Or if you want to teach your children about the different musical instruments that make up an orchestra, you may enjoy Meet the Orchestra (\$2 on iPad in the United States). A lot of attention went into its eye-pleasing graphics, and it is easy for children to navigate — my 4-year-old mastered it swiftly. The app has two halves. The first teaches the name and sound of each instrument, including a short text history (which you will probably need to read out and simplify to suit the age of your children). The second is a quiz section using simple games to reinforce what has already been taught.

You will probably enjoy it, too. I learned surprising facts about pianos: I did not know that before 1709, pianos usually had just four octaves and that they have as many as 10,000 moving parts inside. And it was delightful seeing my eldest learning to say "trombone."

I have concentrated on iPad apps because I found the bigger screen a boon when it came to children bashing at music apps, and the iPad still dominates the tablet market. But there are Android apps that offer similar experiences. Kids Musical Challenges is a great free app that, with a bit of adult supervision, teaches children about instruments and notation via simple games. There is also a version for Android tablet devices.

Go, play music and have fun with your children! Assuming you are happy to let them bash away at a couple of hundred dollars' worth of electronics, that is.

Errant code? It's not just a bug

We need
code, and
attentive
human
beings, to
solve prob-
lems like
the run-
away stock
trades at
Knight
Capital.

Ellen Ullman

SAN FRANCISCO As a former software engineer, I laughed when I read what the Securities and Exchange Commission might be considering in response to the debacle of Knight Capital's runaway computerized stock trades: forcing companies to fully test their computer systems before deploying coding changes.

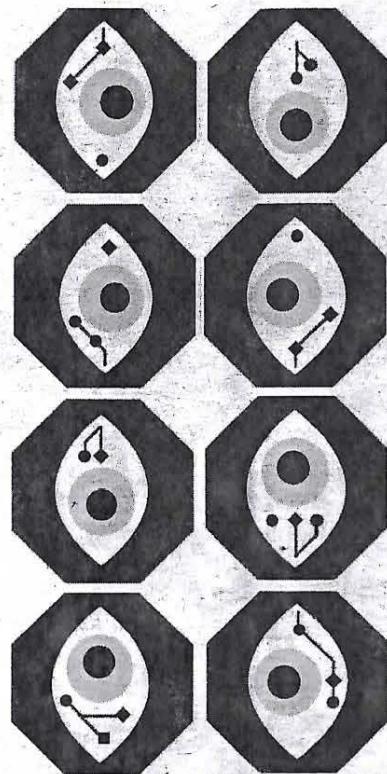
That policy may sound sensible, but if you know anything about computers, it is funny on several accounts.

First, it is impossible to fully test any computer system. To think otherwise is to misunderstand what constitutes such a system. It is not a single body of code created entirely by one company.

Rather, it is a collection of "modules" plugged into one another. Software modules are purchased from multiple vendors; the programs are proprietary; a purchaser (like Knight Capital) cannot see this code. Each piece of hardware also has its own embedded, inaccessible programming. The resulting system is a tangle of black boxes wired together that communicate through dimly explained "interfaces."

A programmer on one side of an interface can only hope that the programmer on the other side has gotten it right. Next, there is no such thing as a body of code without bugs. You can test assiduously; first the programmers test, then the quality-assurance engineers; finally you run the old and new systems in parallel to monitor results. But no matter. There is always one more bug.

Society may want to put its trust in computers, but it should know the



ANGUS GREIG

facts: a bug, fix it. Another bug, fix it. The "fix" itself may introduce a new bug. And so on.

So now consider that tangle of modules. The bug in one meets the bug in another, and that one in another ... and the possibility of system failure multiplies exponentially.

Another absurd thing is trying to define a coding change worth fully testing. A completely new system rollout would certainly qualify. How about installing an updated module from one of those software vendors? It depends on the perceived criticality of the component. How about that new network router and its embedded code? Rarely done. What about a tiny bug fix done by a responsible, hardworking programmer at Knight Capital? Good quality-assurance departments would test that. But individual programmers may see a particular change as insignificant. One time I fixed a function by changing "less than" to "less than or equal to."

That "fix" propagated through the system. And down the system came.

And I haven't even mentioned the errors in algorithms devised by all the Ph.D. mathematicians hired to work at Wall Street firms. Written by geniuses they may be, but even Einstein sometimes got things wrong.

The best solution would be to bring back the "market makers" of old, the people who stood between the bid and the asking price and were responsible for making the trade work. Yet I cannot imagine they will return. Technology does not run backward. Once a technical capability is out there, it is out there for good.

The only remaining answer is to go forward. Just as offensive speech is remedied by more speech, the remedy for errant code is more code.

Credit card companies offer us a model, albeit a flawed one. Cardholder liability is limited by law: if a charge is fraudulent, issuers are responsible for

1. H. T. Aug. 10, 2012.

most of the cost. They therefore have an incentive to detect events that are out of the ordinary. These companies use artificial intelligence programs that get a "sense" of your normal purchases: where you use the card, the range of the amounts involved, the sort of vendors you deal with. The programs can sometimes be too vigilant (freezing your card on your first trip to Paris), but their reaction is often correct. They put the questionable charge in abeyance, and the company contacts you, asking, Is this valid? Creepy as it is to have the issuer probing into your habits, by protecting themselves, credit card companies also work for you.

Algorithmic stock traders can learn from this example. Each company should create artificial intelligence programs that recognize unusual patterns. The S.E.C. and other regulatory bodies should independently deploy their own systems. The role of these "watcher" programs would be to slow things down and inform a human being that something seems strange: artificial intelligence meets human intelligence, and the human gets to sort things out. It is indeed laughable to think that programmers, alone, can solve problems like those at Knight Capital. The credit card model informs us: we need code and attentive human beings.

But the indispensable component is the protection induced by the rule of law. Credit card issuers get stuck with the bill. If Knight Capital and other firms were forced to pay back everyone — everyone — who got caught in their down draft, just imagine what brilliant systems the companies would devise.

ELLEN ULLMAN is the author, most recently, of the novel "By Blood,"

To share is human; to overshare in the workplace is inappropri

The problem is that people are forgetting where they are (at work, not at a bar or in a chat room) and who their audience is (bosses, clients, colleagues and the public, not their buddies).

Even when they know that it is inappropriate to share certain personal information at work, they do it anyway, in part because others do. So they think doing so is O.K. (it is not), and that colleagues are interested (they are not). Many people in the United States blame narcissistic baby-boomer parents for raising children with an overblown sense of worth. When I told a British colleague that many Americans were

starting to realize that they reveal way too much about themselves, he gave a full-throated laugh and said, "Finally!" Others attribute the problem to a desperate need for connection. For many, the workplace has become a second home. It is the place we spend a major-

I have been hearing a lot lately about 20-somethings who are too eager to tell all at work. Whether they are recounting their drunken exploits or their external job searches, their tendency to provide too much information is leaving many managers scratching their heads. A human resources manager for a manufacturing company told me that several young workers had asked her how many times they could be absent before she would fire them. A human resources manager at a health care business was taken aback when an employee casually told him she was looking for a new job that should take six to eight months to find. And a senior manager, asking a subordinate how he was doing, was told, "Well, I haven't had sex for five years, so I guess I'm not doing so good." I am a baby boomer, so I have an opinion on this topic that might be more than a little skewed. But I honestly can't recall a time when I walked away from a conversation with someone of my generation or even a decade or two younger and thought, "Whoa, did you really say that?"

Mostly I see this happening with young people who seem to have lost all sense of boundaries and decorum. Recently, however, I have heard a lot of professionals complain that the problem increasingly crosses generations.

One chief executive of a small company, upon congratulating her colleague on becoming a grandmother, received a blow-by-blow account of the daughter's birthing ordeal, from the progression of the expanding cervix to the processing of the placenta.

So why are more and more people oversharing personal information? One explanation is that the practice is an extension of online behavior. Social media have made it the norm to tell everybody everything.

Preoccupations

PEGGY KLAUS

I have been hearing a lot lately about 20-somethings who are too eager to tell all at work. Whether they are recounting their drunken exploits or their external job searches, their tendency to provide too much information is leaving many managers scratching their heads.

A human resources manager for a manufacturing company told me that several young workers had asked her how many times they could be absent before she would fire them. A human resources manager at a health care business was taken aback when an employee casually told him she was looking for a new job that should take six to eight months to find. And a senior manager, asking a subordinate how he was doing, was told, "Well, I haven't had sex for five years, so I guess I'm not doing so good." I am a baby boomer, so I have an opinion on this topic that might be more than a little skewed. But I honestly can't recall a time when I walked away from a conversation with someone of my generation or even a decade or two younger and thought, "Whoa, did you really say that?"

Mostly I see this happening with young people who seem to have lost all sense of boundaries and decorum. Recently, however, I have heard a lot of professionals complain that the problem increasingly crosses generations.

One chief executive of a small company, upon congratulating her colleague on becoming a grandmother, received a blow-by-blow account of the daughter's birthing ordeal, from the progression of the expanding cervix to the processing of the placenta.

So why are more and more people oversharing personal information? One explanation is that the practice is an extension of online behavior. Social media have made it the norm to tell everybody everything.

is crucial to building trust and to forging relationships. It can also make one's time at work much more enjoyable.

But some guidance could help us control our obsessive sharing disorder. Before divulging details about your personal life, ask yourself these questions:

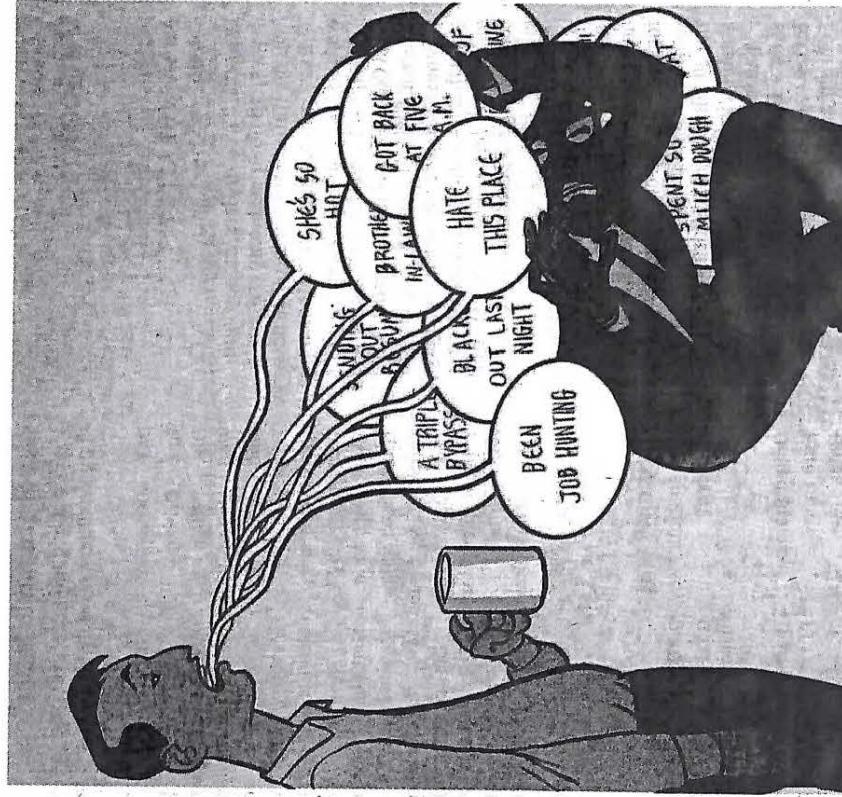
- Who is listening to me (a boss, a client, a colleague or a friend)?
- Why am I sharing this? What is the point?
- In this situation, would less be better?
- Have I left my emotional baggage outside the door?

• Does what I am sharing benefit my career or the quality of my work relationships?

In no way does bragging about drink-binges to colleagues or to a boss improve your reputation or further your career. Nor can divulging that you are disgruntled and looking for a new job help your department or company function better.

I would imagine that I am not alone in thinking this. Your 40-, 50- or 60-year-old bosses probably feel the same way. Decency, common sense and plain good manners will never go out of style. Should they ever do so, I hope I will have retired by then.

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KAREN SHADMI



TONY MELVILLE/REUTERS

Some believe that social media have made it the norm to tell everybody everything.

It is not to suggest that people should stop talking about anything that is not related to work. I am a bigponent of bringing the best parts of one's personality into the workplace, and sharing some personal information

of our waking hours, and we want to make it as comfortable as possible. In doing so, we sometimes forget that it is necessary to maintain a certain level of professionalism.

This is not to suggest that people