

Kendall Pawlak

Why are there single shoes everywhere?

YouTube

July 22nd 2022

In the video “Why are there single shoes everywhere?” J.J. McCullough goes on to find various explanations on why there are single shoes left all over on the side of the road. JJ emphasizes that one of his favorite authors, David Feldman, has come up with multiple theories throughout multiple books trying to put an end to the confusion. JJ explains how these single shoes could appear from arguing children throwing shoes angrily out of moving vehicles. Perhaps from passengers resting their feet out the window during traveling. He even talks about how the shoes could happen to be abandoned from garbage trucks that travel around basically everywhere. But then JJ debunks that theory by explaining how we don’t see empty cereal containers and things lying around. JJ then discusses how he favors the theory of animals. In other words JJ believes that any type of animal could be picking up the shoe, and then carrying it around until they get uninterested with it. Therefore abandoning it wherever it is then found.

I agree on the theory that most single shoes are commonly left around by animals. Dogs and even cats love to chew, lick, or even smell anything. Shoes being one of the most common. I typically wear the same pair of shoes for a certain amount of time, and after a while I’ll buy a new pair and forget about the old pair. I will admit I never tend to throw away my shoes, unless they are destroyed or just plain ugly. They will just sit in the garage or at the bottom of my closet until spring cleaning comes around. Would I really notice if one went missing? Animals love to dig in the trash, they love to lick the salty sweat off our skins. Even wild animals can pick up shoes from the back porch or even from campsites. Then carrying it with them until they are satisfied. This would also work with how there are single shoes not pairs. Animals have tiny mouths, they cannot fit both shoes in their mouth at a time. However I also like how JJ explains that it could be teens pranking each other, or trying to hit street signs. With that being explained I agree with JJ on his favorite theory on why there are single shoes on the side of the road.

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The Anthropocene Reviewed: Orbital Sunrise

Podcast

August 26th 2021

In the podcast “Orbital Sunrises” by John Green. John discusses a prompt derived from the artist David Brooks. Brooks asks you to think of something you have never seen and try to find a way to articulate it. John believes we truly do not know everything there is to know, but art can help us astronomically when it comes to filling in some blanks. Green uses a space mission with Russian astronaut Alex Leonov as an example. The mission was meant to study the sunrise from an outer-space perspective. Leonov only space walked for a couple of minutes before he was able to create a simple sketch of the sunrise. In other words, John is saying that even though he will never go to space and see an orbital sunrise, he believes there is enough information for him to be able to describe and understand an orbital sunrise.

On one hand, I agree with John that if we do our research we should be able to understand any concept, however, I still insist that some concepts may not have enough research available on them. When it comes to the internet, there isn't much you can't find. You can scroll through endless articles on any topic, even celebrity lives. You can find multiple images on any topic, whether they are sketches or captured in real life. But there are topics we still don't understand even as a universe. Such as the cure for certain cancers, or the mysteries of the ocean floor. I believe you need to have a certain amount of research about a concept to comprehend it. Until we have searched every inch of our world and even outer space, how can truly know everything? If we discover another universe in 20 years how can I picture that now? If I am only given minimal information about a mouse, I may be led to believe it could be a 200-pound creature. While it is true that even if we never see a concept, we can still understand it. But with that being said, it does not necessarily mean I can comprehend any concept unless I am given the right amount of information on it.

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Campus Parking Week of Jan. 15

Gmail

January 12th 2024

In the email “Campus Parking Week of Jan. 15” from Bob Kelly, Oakland Community Colleges Executive Director of Facility Operations. Bob Kelly warns OCC students that we may be expecting extremely cold weather the week of January 15th. Mr. Kelly states to current students, “With colder temperatures expected the week of Jan. 15, the College is opening its employee parking to students to provide additional parking spaces on all campuses.” Mr. Kelly is informing students that for one week we will be able to park in the staff parking lots. He also informs us by using wayfinding maps we can find the closest parking lot to our classes.

In other words, for one week students get to unconvince our staff members and mess up the flow of the campus parking lots. With it being the beginning of a new semester I believe we don’t need students getting accustomed to parking in lots they are not allowed to park in. I might add also that the temperatures predicted the week of January 15th, are not abnormal to lower Michigan temperatures this time of year. This January was very mild compared to the following years. What about all the other college campuses? Michigan Tech, for example, they are located in the upper peninsula. Would it be fair every winter if they got special treatment every time it reached a certain temperature? I would say no considering they would be unconvinced for months out of the year. I completely disagree with Bob Kelly, because I think he is overlooking the treatment of staff members and needs to let the students be adults and dress warm for the lowering temperatures.

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Ghosting is Immature

Reddit

March 2nd 2024

While scrolling through Reddit I came across a post titled, “Ghosting is Immature” from *u/Abstagedok*. The user discusses a recent dating story where he is pursuing a woman but she happens to show a couple of red flags. He begins to relay that she is the type of woman that needs to be chased. He continues sharing that if she feels she’s not getting enough attention from him, she will become uninterested. With everything going well, they swap photos and the woman ends up ghosting him, then blocking him not too long after. The user then states “It just feels like a real lack of communication skills and some major respect imbalance on expectations.”

In other words, I feel *u/Abstagedok* is letting his emotions get the best of him. The user seems like he is upset that this woman he was putting effort into getting with, rejected him. He seemingly forgets that this woman does owe him a thing. They are strangers and he has no idea what she has going on. Maybe her life got busy and she had no time for random men in her life. Perhaps he was weirdo or came on too strong. For him to go and make a whole Reddit post after this woman has already blocked him. What is that solving for you except showing how much you truly cared? Especially when you go on to relay how you don’t care about the situation. User *u/Abstagedok's* belief in ghosting rests on the faulty assumption that when you ghost someone it is because you are immature, or lack communication skills and respect. Furthermore, I believe ghosting can help keep your life simple and less complicated, and if used in the right situation can help your way of life.

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When You Have Strict Parents

TikTok

February 13th 2024

"The Syd Show" is an account run by Sydney Fields on the platform TikTok. Sydney posted a video titled, "When You Have Strict Parents." In this video, Sydney explains some rules her father gave her and her older siblings growing up. She describes how they were not allowed to share each other's clothes with anybody. Sydney shares that if she hung out with somebody one weekend, she couldn't hang out with anybody the next weekend. Her father would go as far as to say they also could not hang out with that same friend multiple times in a row as well, in fear his children would become followers. Later on in the video, Sydney explains that her younger siblings don't have to follow the same rules she just now shared. She also shares some other unfair privileges, such as a younger driving age, which her father allowed as well for her younger siblings.

In other words, I believe Sydney's father was very wrong in the parenting methods he used with his older children. With her father trying to micromanage his older children's lives he is ignoring the fact that they need to learn to make decisions on their own to be able to live their lives as adults. Yes, I understand he was probably trying to protect his children from whatever problems he had to overcome as a child. However, I feel he was just adding other problems for his children to overcome. When his older children move out to go to college or do whatever with their lives. I feel it will set them back emotionally. Especially when it comes to making friends, or choosing right from wrong. Not to mention the fact that he then changed the rules for his younger children. Which is better for his younger children's mental health, but also takes another toll on his older children again. They feel it is unfair they had to live with strict rules, but their younger siblings now do not have to. I disagree with Sydney's father's rules and parenting methods because I believe he overlooks his children's feelings and affects the growth of their decision-making skills.

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Powerball prize soars to \$685M as lottery fever grows for draw

Newspaper

December 27th 2023

In Tanya Wildt's article, "Powerball prize soars to \$685M as lottery fever grows for draw" Tanya informs readers no one matched numbers with the winning numbers drawn that prior Monday. She continues her article by trying to grasp the reader's attention and persuade the reader to purchase a Powerball ticket before the next drawing. Tanya states in her article, "The jackpot has reached an estimated \$685 million (\$344.7 million cash value). Here's what you need to know before the next Powerball drawing, which will take place on Christmas." She goes on to answer various questions like when the drawing is, how late you can purchase a ticket, how much it costs, etc.

In other words, I believe Tanya is promoting gambling, one of the top addictions among Americans recently. In 2022 research shows Americans spent about \$108 billion on lottery tickets in America. However, it is reported that 35% of Americans spend most of their lives in debt. I feel gambling is just another way for the government to scam people out of their money by giving them false promises of maybe eventually earning a way higher amount than they put in. Think about it the chance of winning hundreds maybe thousands off of one \$20 ticket is outrageous. The cycle is endless, when you seem to be winning some money off of the tickets you begin to purchase more and more trying to keep winning more like you did. Eventually losing more money overall than you even won. While it is true that the lottery could win you some money, it does not necessarily follow that because you could end up wasting hundreds of dollars before winning a small amount of money.