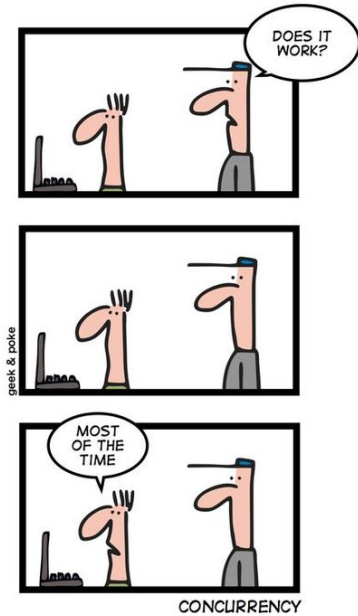


SIMPLY EXPLAINED



English for M1 Info

Spring Semester, 2023

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COURSE ORGANIZATION

You will have 18 hours of English classes this semester, three hours per week, spread across six weeks.

Course Goals

- Communicate orally in a variety of contexts (in pairs, small groups or in front of the class) and on a variety of topics (ranging from general topics, to specialized vocabulary to ethics to the workplace)
- Improve your written expression
- Improve your written and listening comprehension
- Brush up on your English grammar

Program

- Oral comprehension exercises (generally associated with a theme for debate or discussion)
- Practice of written English (client questionnaire, client brief, persuasive essay...)
- Oral communication in the form of games, debates, role plays, and oral presentations
- Reading comprehension

Graded Exercises (Continuous Assessment)

Sem 2

| | | |
|--------------|--|------|
| Oral | Oral presentation /simulations/debates in class | 50 % |
| Written Exam | Reading and Listening Comprehension + Written expression | 50 % |

*The dates for graded exercises will be provided by your teacher at a later date

** Reminder: Presence in English class is MANDATORY (OBLIGATOIRE)

Absences must be justified with a medical certificate within 15 days of your absence.

Teaching coordinator: **Krista Reder**, Département des Langues (bât 5)

Email: krista.reder@umontpellier.fr

Your teacher's name & contact details:

.....

Your Moodle page: English for M1 Computer Science: Home/Courses/Faculté des Sciences/Département des langues (DDL)/Anglais/Master 1/English M1 Info

Oral Presentations

(In pairs or groups of 3)

For your oral presentation this semester, you have three choices. **Choose ONE of the following three options to present in front of the class:**

Choice 1 – Talk Show Interview: Find and research a person from your field (living or dead) whose work or contributions you admire. This person can be well-known or relatively unknown (but you feel they deserve more credit than they have received).

Create a Talk Show skit wherein you interview this person. One person will take on the role of the interviewee, while one or more other people will be the interviewer(s).

Guidelines:

- Do your research
- Give your interview show structure!
- **Each person should speak for approximately 2.5 - 3 minutes** (The amount of time each student speaks should be balanced)

Keep the following thoughts in mind:

- Introduce your interviewee in an engaging way
- Help your audience understand what's so special about this person that you wanted to interview them
- Try to put yourself in the place of the person being interviewed
- Come up with engaging questions to ask your interviewee
- You may use visual aids to make your presentation livelier
- **NO READING**
- Get the audience to react – questions are encouraged at the end of the talk show

***You will be graded individually. This grade will be included in your oral participation grade.**

****The dates will be organized early in the semester by your teacher.**

Choice 2 – Tell Us About Your Dream Company: Where would you most like to work when you finish school? Research your dream company and share your findings with the class.

Guidelines:

- Do your research
- Give your talk structure!
- **Each person should speak for approximately 2.5 - 3 minutes** (The amount of time each student speaks should be balanced)

Keep the following thoughts in mind:

- Convey your passion for this company
- Help us understand why this is your dream company
- You may use visual aids to make your presentation livelier
- **NO READING**
- Get the audience to react – questions are encouraged at the end of your talk

***You will be graded individually. This grade will be included in your oral participation grade.**

****The dates will be organized early in the semester by your teacher.**

Choice 3 – Create an Escape Game:

Each person should speak for approximately 2.5 - 3 minutes (The amount of time each student speaks should be balanced)

Goal: Invent a digital Escape Game (in English) to be played in class with your classmates.

Pair work/Small groups: You will work in pairs or groups of three with classmates (you choose your groups). On the day the assignment is due, you may be split into groups, containing people from other pairs/groups, in order to play your escape game with other students who are unfamiliar with your work, or you we may play as an entire class (your teacher will decide).

Rules: Create enigmas (written in English) that use scientific knowledge from your university studies or grammar and vocabulary you have learned in English classes.

Your escape game should:

- 1) Include (a) concept(s) learned in your science classes this year or in previous years:
- 2) Teach or review the above concept(s) by:
 - Introducing a concept,
 - Consolidating learning that previously should have taken place (through practice, for example) or
 - Testing the level of knowledge students have about things they should have already learned in their science classes
- 3) Contain one or more non-player characters to interact with the players in interesting ways
- 4) Incite players to communicate with each other and the non-player character in order to discuss the choices to be made, etc.
- 5) Use codes, puzzles, cyphers, etc. to force players to use their problem-solving skills
- 6) Include hints, in case players get stuck on a particularly enigmatic puzzle
- 7) Provide the answers when players are unable to come up with the correct response, or to show them that they have given the correct response.

You will present your escape game in front of the class, leading your classmates through your game.

Note: You may use Powerpoint to have players move from slide to slide as they advance through the game, you might want to try creating a google site for this purpose... or you can use any other format/software skills in your arsenal that you find interesting for this kind of game creation.

REMEMBER: NO READING

HAVE FUN!!

***You will be graded individually. This grade will be included in your oral participation grade.**

****The dates will be organized early in the semester by your teacher.**

Tell me your ten

What are your ten cultural must-haves?

Instructions:

1. Individually: Using the following page, make a list of the ten cultural items you would hate to have to live without
2. In small groups: Discuss your lists, asking your classmates follow-up questions and providing your own opinions about their choices
3. Debate the merits of becoming attached to cultural phenomena, etc. What purpose do these things serve in your life?

For ideas, see the categories below:

Entertainment: Movies, TV shows, songs, podcasts, radio stations, games, art, YouTube channels or videos, comic books, magazines, performances, plays, musicals...

Food: Restaurants, recipes, meals, drinks, snacks...

Places: Countries, cities, neighborhoods, buildings, stores, rooms...

People or groups: Artists, social media, accounts, athletes, teams...

Fashion: Clothes, shoes, labels, designers, brands, hairstyles, accessories, make-up...

Events: Festivals, holidays, special occasions...

Hobbies: sports, crafts, clubs, extracurricular activities...

Cherished objects/people: Your phone, family, memorabilia, collections...

For further inspiration, read one of the short "My Ten" articles at the end of the booklet.

| <i>My Must-Haves</i> | <i>Why?</i> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
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What happened last Saturday night?!

Telling a hypothetical story with modal verbs...

Last Saturday night, you went out with friends, and something strange happened. Or, at least, you think something did. You don't truly remember everything, so you get together with your friends to piece together all of your memories to reconstruct the events of the night.

In groups of 3-4 students, retell the story of what you think happened that night, using modal verbs combined with present and past tenses to express doubt wherever appropriate. Take turns constructing the story, sentence by sentence (student 1 starts the story, student 2 adds the next sentence, student 3 adds another...)

Remember, stories contain the following elements:

- Who? (provide some characters)
- What? (the events of the night)
- Where? (location, location, location!)
- When? (come up with a timeline)
- How?
- Why?

Game Pieces:

- A **stack of modal verb cards** is provided to prompt you through your story, or you can come up with your own if you're feeling creative.
- There is a handy-dandy **list of modal verbs** and their past tense uses on the next page.

You will present your story to the other groups at the end of the game, so you may want to write down your amazing ideas.

Note: *Your teacher may do some modal verb review with your class, depending on how well you remember their uses for deducing events from the past.*

Using modals to express uncertainties about past situations

| PAST MODALS OF DEDUCTION | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| test-english.com | | | |
| MUST 90-100% sure it's TRUE | CAN'T 90-100% sure NOT true | MAY MIGHT 30-50% sure it's (or not) true | SHOULD OUGHT TO expected to be true |
| + infinitive (present meaning) → She <u>must be</u> in the garden. → Look at their house. They <u>must be</u> rich. | + infinitive (present meaning) → She <u>can't be</u> his mother. She's too young. → He's just left. He <u>can't be</u> too far. | + infinitive (present meaning) → He <u>may/might take</u> the next train. → She <u>may/might not be</u> home yet. | + infinitive (present meaning) → He <u>should be/ought to be</u> at work now. → It <u>shouldn't be/ought not to be</u> too far now. |
| + HAVE + past participle (past meaning) → She <u>must have been</u> in the garden when I called. | + HAVE + past participle (past meaning) → You <u>can't have seen</u> her. She was at home. | + HAVE + past participle (past meaning) → He <u>may have taken</u> a different train. He'll call. → He <u>might not have heard</u> you. | + HAVE + past participle (past meaning) → You <u>should have packed/ought to have packed</u> your things. You're going to be late. → You <u>shouldn't have done/ought not to have done</u> that. It was rude. |
| Use CAN'T (not MUSTN'T) → He's just left. He <u>can't be</u> too far. (NOT mustn't be) | COULDN'T HAVE + past participle (also possible) → You <u>couldn't have seen</u> her. | COULD also possible → He <u>could be</u> hurt. | |
| test-english.com | | | |

Informal vs. Formal Language

Watch the following video and answer the comprehension questions below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A55YX5Gve3U&list=RDCMUctgUyLVqgkbkVgVZTHMkECQ&start_radio=1&rv=A55YX5Gve3U&t=233

1. At the beginning of the video, there is an exploding head gif. Which English slang expression does this represent?
2. Which part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, etc.) is “chill” being used as here? What does it mean in this context?
3. What does she call Lord Byron? What does this mean?
4. Why was Ada Lovelace schooled in mathematics and reason? What is the meaning of the expression used to describe her dad’s behavior?
5. What does it mean to “have someone’s back?”
6. What did Charles Babbage supposedly say to Ada Lovelace when she asked if she could help him with his Difference Machine? What does this mean in English slang?
7. What were Ada Lovelace’s contributions to computer science?
8. What is EDM?

Computer Science Slang Match-up

Watch the following video for a little taste of modern CS slang:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3WWBS0yTF0>

Then, working with a partner, try matching the following CS slang terms with their meanings. Then, draw the symbols you think the terms refer to.

| Slang Term | Symbol | Letter | Meaning |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| The Elvis operator | | | A. Checks the first argument listed to see if it is null. If it is null, a null value is returned. If it is non-null, properties of the non-null object will be invoked safely without an exception being thrown. |
| The bang operator | | | B. Used for multiplication in Java and Python, or as a wildcard in SLQ and RegEx. |
| The spaceship operator | | | C. Used to reduce the verbosity of generics. Copies the generic type defined on the left of an assignment to the generic type on the right, without the need for the developer to type the generic type out a second time. |
| The pyramid of doom | | | D. Returns one of three values, -1, 0 or +1, when used to compare two values. |
| The rocket ship | | | E. When you wish to flip a Boolean value, you put this symbol before it. |
| The shebang sequence | | | F. A more colorful word for the address sign. |
| The bug splat | | | G. When a developer nests too many conditional if statements inside of each other, making the code error-prone when updated by fellow developers. |
| The safe navigator | | | H. New name given to the "fat arrow" to avoid body shaming arrows |
| The octothorpe | | | I. Compares two values, returns the value after the question mark if true, and returns the second value if false – helps clean up a small pyramid of doom |
| The diamond operator | | | J. A shell script in Unix starts with this combination of symbols. The shortened form of the term for this combination is... |
| The monkeytail | | | K. One of the many words used for the pound sign |

What should you use and when?

What Are the Characteristics of Formal Language?

- Avoids slang, figures of speech and abbreviated words
- Complex structure – which does not mean that the text should be hard to understand. Instead, a formal writing style offers us a more structured approach, prioritized clarity, and logical connections between sentences. No surprises, as this style requires planning, revision, and a strategic approach.
- Using full words instead of acronyms or contractions – avoid acronyms like MS, NASA, and contractions like don't, won't, etc.
- Objective - formal style supports main points with arguments and excludes emotion and subjectivity from the text.

When to Use Formal Style?

If your goal is to appear professional, a formal style is your go-to option.

Generally, writers use the formal style in:

- Business communications
- Legal documents
- Academic research
- Academic writing
- Official Emails
- News coverage
- Job application

How Can You Improve Your Use of Formal Language?

When most people think about formal language, they imagine complex sentence structures and rare use of personal pronouns. However, there are other ways to make your writing more formal. For instance, you can choose traditional vocabulary over colloquial expressions. Additionally, you can use more complex sentences and should avoid contractions.

Finally, in a professional context, always remember your audience. Keep in mind that not everyone will be familiar with informal expressions or slang words. When in doubt, stick with standard English and avoid using too much jargon or specialized terminology.

Common Mistakes People Make When Using Formal Language

When most people think of formal language, they often think of it as being stuffy or difficult to understand. However, you can avoid common mistakes and make your writing more polished and professional.

One common mistake is using overly complex words when simpler alternatives would suffice. Another error is dressing up casual phrases in an attempt to sound more sophisticated. As a general rule, it's best to stick to standard terms unless you are certain that the more specialized word is required.

Another common pitfall is getting too personal or informal in your writing or speech. Remember that formal language should be used for business or legal documents, not for friendly conversations with friends and family members. Finally, avoid using contractions such as "can't" or "won't" in formal writing - instead, use the full forms "cannot" and "will not".

What Is Informal Style?

The best way to describe the informal writing style is the way you speak to your friends, family members, and anyone involved in casual activities and situations.

What Are Characteristics of Informal Style?

By looking at texts, you can easily detect what kind of style the writer integrated into the piece.

- Personal tone - this style is conversational. The writer or speaker approaches the reader as a friend. Just like we do it in our blog. We use the second person to address you and directly talk with you.
- Colloquial language - instead of formal speech and academic writing, the informal style includes unconstrained words and language, even slang. Some examples include: gonna, wanna, gotta, y'all, which should never be used in formal texts.
- Short sentences - Just like in regular conversations, the sentence structure is not complex and tends to favor short-length sentences instead of long ones.
- Abbreviations - if you write informally, you can abbreviate the words, and instead of "it is not", write "it's not". If you mention "television" in the text, you can go for "TV".
- Empathy - as a more personal writing method, writers make their feelings and emotions clear to their audience.

When to Use Informal Style?

- Personal emails
- Text messages
- Informal blog posts
- Diary
- Personal blogs
- Creative writing

What Are the Key Differences Between the Formal and Informal Styles?

1. Formal style is impersonal - while informal style is personal.
2. The formal style contains more complex sentences - while the informal style's sentences are short.
3. The formal style favors the passive voice and informal the active voice.
4. Formal style integrates the official tone while the informal prioritizes the friendly.
5. The formal style writes in the third person - whereas the informal opts for the first and second person.
6. The formal style does not favor slang, abbreviations, or colloquial language, but the informal style gives it a green light.

Play the Slang Game

Game contents:

- Stack of cards containing slang terms with their definitions (mix of British, American, Aussie, and Computer Science slang)

Instructions:

Player One: draw a card and hold up the card so that the other members of the group only see the word (not its meaning)

Other Players: Individually, guess what the word means (write your definition down, perhaps). The person whose definition is the closest to the real meaning wins a point. The player with the most points wins the game (obvi!)

Use the space below to keep track of your points...

How to speak convincingly

The following article contains useful tips for public speaking and persuasive conversation (such as debates). Underline or highlight the points you find most important or useful.

Principles Of Persuasion: Bill McGowan's 7 Secrets for Saying the Right Words, Every Time (redacted for brevity)

Cheryl Conner

Feb 22, 2014

These days I receive a great number of books for prospective review. Very few make a major impact, but the book I received this week—Pitch Perfect: How To Say It Right The First Time, Every Time had my attention from the word “go.” Due April 1, *Pitch Perfect* is the product of two-time Emmy Award winning correspondent and communications pro Bill McGowan, who’s reported some 700 televised stories and anchored hundreds of hours of news (his credits include ABC News 20/20, *A Current Affair*, Dow Jones and CBS News).

McGowan currently makes his career as a communications strategist to C-level executives and entertainers. Eli Manning, Kelly Clarkson, Jack Welch and Kenneth Cole are some of the personalities he’s advised. As the CEO of Clarity Media he coaches companies such as Dropbox, Facebook, AirBnB and Salesforce.com. I confess to reading the proof copy of Bill’s book from cover to cover the minute it arrived at my door.

There are many golden nuggets in McGowan’s collection of tactics and tricks. (Conversation escapes. Apologies. Asking for favors or raises. Telling someone to ditch the smartphone while you speak.) He provides ideas for presentations and speeches. (Show crisp conviction. Keep it short. Display sheer delight.) But I was especially impressed with McGowan’s seven rules of persuasion, which for an entrepreneur, in particular, apply to us all. Initially, the “seven secrets” were simply a mental checklist for Bill until he realized after thousands of hours of video editing that nearly all winning sound bites and segments adhere to the same set of rules. So he named them. Now the Seven Principles of Persuasion are available to all, as follows:

1. **The Headline Principle.** Get attention for a topic by sharing your best information first, McGowan says, especially if it’s a thought-provoking line that makes listeners think “*I want to know more.*” This is golden wisdom. It applies to investment pitches, sales presentations, and, of course, to articles, press

releases and blog columns as well. As I like to put it, writing a great press release or article is like telling a joke backwards: You begin with the punchline. Then you proceed down the pyramid to fill in the color and the additional details.

2. The Scoresese Principle. In a persuasive setting, you can hold attention by providing your audience with visual detail. For example, says McGowan, few people who've seen Martin Scorsese's movie *Goodfellas* can forget the scene of Paul Sorvino thinly slicing a garlic clove with a razor blade as he prepared a culinary feast while in jail. The image told a vivid story: Sorvino and his wise guy pals were living like kings behind bars. Consider this principle as you prepare your pitch or presentation. You are the director of your own product or company story. What are the images (and also the details and words) that will bring your message to life? As your high school English teacher used to say about your writing assignments, "Name the dog." (What kind of a dog? Large, small, ferocious? Hector? Skippy?) These details count.

3. The Pasta Sauce Principle. Every sauce is better when it's boiled down to its essence. You should make your message as rich and brief as you possibly can, McGowan maintains. Your story takes three pages? What happens when you distill it to a couple of bullets and words? Avoid the temptation to overwhelm your audience. Leave them hungry for more.

4. The No-Tailgating Principle. Says McGowan, "The speed with which you talk should be directly proportional to your certainty of the next sentence coming out of your mouth." The more certain you are, the more briskly you can speak. But if you're prone to saying the first thing that pops into your head, slow your speaking – add strategic pauses – and be certain that every thought you utter has a strategic purpose and a distinct beginning, middle and end.

5. The Conviction Principle. Deals are won and engagement established with the strength of the speaker's convictions. Be certain you are conveying certainty with your words, your posture, your expression, and the tone of your voice.

6. The Curiosity Principle. The best broadcast interviewers earn trust, McGowan says, by displaying genuine interest in their interview subjects. Their demeanor expresses there's nowhere else they'd rather be. For example, he notes, consider the former *Meet the Press* anchor Tim Russert. The look on his face conveyed how much he really did love his job. Consequently, he asked whatever he liked and his interview guests were remarkably forthcoming. No matter how direct the question, it was never

perceived as a “gotcha” remark or low blow. This trait is useful in persuasive discussions or sales presentations as well.

7. The Draper Principle. Yes, this principle is named for the fictional *Mad Men* character Don Draper, who plays the role of creative director in a Manhattan advertising firm and is renowned for his ability to win pitches. The best way to stay on point in a persuasive discussion is to steer the dialogue into the directions that play to your strengths. It’s the legendary Don Draper adage, “If you don’t like what’s being said, change the conversation.” (Yes, it does require some practice and tact.)

There are many more ideas in McGowan’s gold mine of strategies for handling situations ranging from conversational bores, liars, one-way dialogue hoses, and even sticky wickets such as what to say to the colleague who’s received the promotion you want.

McGowan’s most salient point, in my opinion, is this: “No one graduates from eloquence school.” Like it or not, we are perpetual students. Every one of us can benefit from continually learning to communicate better.

Why do you find the points you underlined useful?

How to deal with nerves when speaking in front of an audience

Watch the following video about how to handle stage fright and answer the questions below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1T7VlHbM3A>

1. What is the precursor of nerves?
2. How is a clear intention defined by the speaker?
3. What is a focal point? How should you use it?
4. How should you breathe to avoid exacerbating the cycle of anxiety?
5. How should you release the tension in your body before a presentation or performance?
6. Where is your physical center?
7. What is a process cue? How should you use it?
8. What should you do as you start your performance or speech?

Let's put these tips into practice!

To present effectively, smooth, confident delivery of the content is key. It is uncomfortable for both everyone when a presentation is full of noticeable false starts, hesitations, and long pauses. To avoid these problems, it pays to work on your fluency as part of your speech preparation. So, let's try the 4-3-2 method, which aims to help you improve your speaking fluency by repeating the same presentation three times, decreasing the time of the talk each time. *Using the tips in the article and the video, create a short presentation.*

A. To begin, choose a familiar topic for a short two or three-minute presentation. If you can't think of your own topic, choose one from the options below.

Presentation Topics

1. Effective language learning habits
2. Benefits/drawbacks of playing video games
3. How to make a good first impression
4. Your favourite restaurant
5. A product recommendation
6. A book or movie recommendation

B. Take 2 minutes to write a simple outline for your presentation. The outline should include the main idea and a list of supporting ideas with additional examples and explanations. Write keywords and phrases (not complete sentences) as in the example below.

Example Outline

Main idea: *Japan – good travel choice*

Supporting idea 1: *good sightseeing – Mt. Fuji, temples, and traditional villages*

Supporting idea 2: *delicious food – ramen, sushi, and Michelin star restaurants*

Supporting idea 3: *local people – Friendly, polite, and fun-loving*

Your Outline

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C. Now, give the same short presentation three times, presenting to a different partner each time:

- Round 1: You have 4 minutes to talk.
- Round 2: You have 3 minutes.
- Round 3: Talk for 2 minutes.

100-Word Narratives

Being able to succinctly describe a person's life or career is a useful skill – especially when that person is you... and you are looking for a job. Let's practice by writing a 100-word narrative about the life and career of a pioneer in your field... or a person who did not receive the credit you think they deserved.

Instructions:

1. In pairs or groups of three, select a name from the stack of cards provided by your teacher.
2. Research the person whose name appears on your card.
3. In the box below, write a 100-word narrative about their life and/or career.
4. Present your story to your classmates.

What makes a good interview?

The best way to prepare for a job interview is by thoroughly researching the company to better be able to anticipate the questions that might be asked. Good research skills and the ability to ask the right questions can also help you ascertain a client's or coworker's software development needs (they could also be useful for your interview talk show assignment).

Watch the Hot Ones interview excerpt provided by your teacher. Use the blank space below to take notes about this interview. How would you characterize the interviewer's approach? How would you characterize the questions he asks? What seems special about this interview? What techniques does the interviewer use to really capture the essence of his guests? What could you take from this interview that might help you in preparing for a job interview or a client meeting?

On the next page, you will find an article about what we can learn from interview shows like Hot Ones that can help us perform better in any type of interview - even job.

What 'Hot Ones' Taught Me about Getting the Job

BY UVARO
(REDACTED FOR BREVITY)

It's no secret that job interviews can be stressful. They can be overwhelming and fear-inducing. We all want the job, but no one actually wants to go through a dry, boring, prolonged, uncomfortable interview cycle to get there, right?

Job interviews are a necessary evil, so what's the real key to nailing them?

Is there a way to fake it until you make it? How will I know what kind of questions are going to be asked? What are the tricks of the trade? What kind of jargon do I need to know? So many questions...

After many late nights spent deep-diving on YouTube, I finally found a solution. Your job interview troubles will disappear if you pretend you're the host of Hot Ones.

What does that even mean, you ask?

Do I need to bring hot sauce to an interview, you inquire?

What's 'Hot Ones', you plead?

I'll tell you.

No.

And, good question. I'll start with that.

Hot Ones is a talk show where the host shares a platter of spicy chicken wings with popular celebrities. They try to answer interview questions while each wing gets spicier than the last. Hilarity ensues.

So, what do hot wings and celebrities have to do with job interviews? It's simple.

The fundamentals of nailing a job interview break down into "the 3 Ps"

1. Prep
2. Personality
3. Perseverance

With the fundamental mentality behind them being this: **You are finding the right fit as much as they are. No matter how much you want this position, you need to figure out whether they are as a good fit for you as you are for them.**

Sean Evans is the current host of Hot Ones and our fearless wing-eating champion. He uses the 3Ps. He interviews his own personal heroes while creating memorable connections with each one. That is the mark of an excellent interview.

So let's get into it.

PREP

Sounds easy: quickly google the company and drop a name here and there? NO!

Whenever you think about taking the easy road, think W.W.S.E.D – What Would Sean Evans Do?

Sean does extensive research into each interview subject. We're talking about Instagram deep dives, obscure musical references, and unaired pilots. You should bring that same energy to an interview by *researching the company*. Treat each interview as a learning opportunity for yourself. If you were to leave the interview having learned one new thing, what would it be?

More than that, treat your interview as if you already have the job. Researching the company is vital. Get that info and get it gooooooooood. Sean surprises his interview subjects with his knowledge of their career histories. It's impressive. The farther you dive into a company's history and M.O., the better you'll feel on interview day.

Ask yourself:

- What do you know about the company?
- How are you a good fit for them?
- What don't you know about the job role?
- Are you connected to anyone who already works there?
- If YOU were to interview THEM to see if THEY were a good fit for YOU, what would you ask?

Bring those questions along. At the end of the day, it's mutually beneficial if you're the right fit for a company. They want to find the right candidate as much as you want to find the right job!

Look over your resume, clean up your cover letter, and get a couple of sets of eyes on it. Then, go back and look over it again. Clean up your social media too.

Remember the importance of personal branding. Make sure you're putting your best foot forward before you even walk through the door. But most of all, find your personal connection to a company and use it to your advantage.

PERSONALITY

Use this research and interview time to find your connection to the company. Are they a good fit for you? If you want to work there, what's your edge? What unique flavor do you bring to the table?

Show this on your fine-tuned resumé and from the moment you walk in the door. Being professional is important, but not at the expense of your personality! Whoever YOU are is who they want to hire.

Most businesses now use Applicant Tracking System software tools to help them organize and manage their job applicants. Automating your resumé might prove you can follow instructions. But, you'll have more success if you engage with the decision-maker on a human level.

Find your common ground. Find what humanizes THEM for you. Watching Billie Eilish run laps on Hot Ones because her mouth burns from hot sauce is humanizing, but there are other ways besides hot sauce to give that illusion.

Mentally level the playing field for yourself. In your research, find all the reasons why THEY need YOU on their team. Humanize them and pump yourself up.

Do you love badminton? Do they have a league? Bam! There you go!

That preparedness will help you answer that fateful "How are you today?" Or "Tell us about yourself!" question. Your new answer will make you seem approachable and remind everyone in the room that we're all just people!

Be the hot sauce, level the playing field.

PERSEVERANCE

The best — or worst — part of Hot Ones is the last dab. Sean and the subject both add a huge dab of the hottest hot sauce to the final wing. This is the most important tradition, and we can learn a lot from it.

Sean covers a lot of topics in a single interview, but there are a lot of celebs that still come back for round two. These people had their mouths burned by ghost pepper hot sauce and then volunteered for a second round.

There is something to be said for perseverance in a job interview. At the end of the day, there are people behind every business. Those people are looking for passionate and dedicated people on their teams.

Email is your friend, but it isn't the only communication tool at your disposal. While you don't want to harass your potential employer, connect with them on social media! Saying "thank you" in a phone call can also add a personal touch.

I once knew someone who loved to send physical thank you cards in the mail after an interview. Her boss later said that this personal touch made them rethink their decision. It's much easier to delete an email than to throw away a handwritten note - especially if it's meaningful and thoughtful.

Find your version of the last dab.

It's surprising how many times a "no" becomes a referral, a client, or the employer for your next role. Start by showing that you want the job and show it in the way that feels most authentic to you. The rest will follow.

While we can't all be Sean Evans, we can watch an inhumane amount of Hot Ones interviews to learn a thing or two about showing off personality. Sean is not an abrasive or intrusive interviewer, an approach that allows each celeb to shine.

If there is anything to learn from that, taking the focus off yourself and putting it on the interviewer can sometimes make all the difference. Listening is as important as showing off - and always bring in that last dab to clinch the deal.

Practice Job Interviews

Directions:

- Draft your answers to the most frequently asked interview questions. This will help you to understand the **value you bring** and your **interest in the role**, so you are ready to communicate that in the interview!
- Answers should be between **30-90 seconds** (max 60 seconds for a phone screening).

Traditional Questions:

- A. **Tell me about yourself.** (Hint: think about answering the questions: who are you, what do you do, how do you do it, and for whom/why do you do it? *Remember that 100-narrative?*)
- B. **Why are you interested in this role/company/industry?** (Hint: show off your research and express your genuine enthusiasm!)
- C. **What is your greatest strength?** (Hint: provide *tangible* examples of how your strengths show up in your internships, school, part-time jobs, clubs, organizations, volunteer work, etc. This should not just be positive adjectives; tell them stories as proof!)
- D. **What is your greatest weakness?** (Hint: something that shows your maturity and self-awareness, but is a weakness you are actively working on improving)

- E. **How do you prefer to be supervised?** (Hint: give specific examples! If you can't think of a supervisor, think about your professors or other people who have directed you. It's also okay to say you are flexible, but a supervisor you really liked was so and so)
- F. **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** (Hint: this is a trap! Focus on how you want to professionally develop in 5 years, but do not talk about ambitions that would take you away from the role for which you are interviewing. They likely want someone for the long term)
- G. **Why should we hire you?** (Hint: give summary with the best highlights of your education, experience, qualities, and interest in the position)
- H. **What questions do you have for us?** (Hint: give context to the questions you ask. For example, "I saw on your website that the company has done XYZ. I was impressed, and am curious how that impacts ABC?" This shows you have done your research and are genuinely invested and interested!)

Let's Practice!

Instructions: In pairs or groups of three, draw a job ad, then play the interview question game. One person plays the job seeker, while the other person (or people) play(s) the role of hiring manager (or hiring committee). Practice asking and answering questions.

Game Contents:

- Short job ads
- One stack of job seeker question cards
- One stack of potential employer question cards

How trustworthy are algorithms?

The use of algorithms is spreading as massive amounts of data are being created, captured, and analyzed by businesses and governments. Some are calling this the Age of Algorithms and predicting that the future of algorithms is tied to machine learning and deep learning that will get better and better at an ever-faster pace.

Analysts like Aneesh Aneesh of Stanford University foresee algorithms taking over public and private activities in a new era of “algocratic governance” that supplants “bureaucratic hierarchies.” Others, like Harvard’s Shoshana Zuboff, describe the emergence of “surveillance capitalism” that organizes economic behavior in an “information civilization.”

To illuminate current attitudes about the potential impacts of algorithms in the next decade, Pew Research Center and Elon University’s Imagining the Internet Center conducted a large-scale canvassing of technology experts, scholars, corporate practitioners, and government leaders. Some 1,302 responded to this question about what will happen in the next decade:

Will the net overall effect of algorithms be positive for individuals and society or negative for individuals and society?

Individually, answer the following questions. Then, in groups, discuss/debate about your opinions.

- 1. How would you respond to the above survey question?
- 2. Which uses of algorithms do you condone (What types of things would you prefer an algorithm do, rather than humans?)? Why?

| Algorithm Use | Why do you agree? |
|---------------|-------------------|
| | |

3. What types of things would you not trust an algorithm to do? Why?

| Algorithm Use | Why do you disagree? |
|---------------|----------------------|
| | |

4. Why do you think we distrust algorithms more for some kinds of tasks than for others?

5. Could you categorize the types of tasks your group would trust algorithms to do? How about the types of tasks your group wouldn't trust an algorithm to do?

What do the experts, scholars, etc. think?

On the next page, you will find the elaborations provided by Pew Research Center's survey respondents.

If you are interested in the psychology behind our trust/distrust of algorithms, you might like the following podcast episode: <https://freakonomics.com/podcast/should-we-replace-umpires-with-robots/>

(Article continued) The non-scientific canvassing found that 38% of these particular respondents predicted that the positive impacts of algorithms will outweigh negatives for individuals and society in general, while 37% said negatives will outweigh positives; 25% said the overall impact of algorithms will be about 50-50, positive-negative.

Participants were asked to explain their answers, and most wrote detailed elaborations that provide insights about hopeful and concerning trends. Respondents were allowed to respond anonymously; these constitute a slight majority of the written elaborations. These findings do not represent all the points of view that are possible to a question like this, but they do reveal a wide range of valuable observations based on current trends.

In the next section we offer a brief outline of seven key themes found among the written elaborations. Following that introductory section there is a much more in-depth look at respondents' thoughts tied to each of the themes. All responses are lightly edited for style.

Seven major themes about the algorithm era

INEVITABLE ALGORITHMS

Theme 1 Algorithms will continue to spread everywhere

- The benefits will be visible and invisible and can lead to greater human insight into the world
- The many upsides of algorithms are accompanied by challenges

Theme 2 Good things lie ahead

- Data-driven approaches to problem-solving will expand
- Code processes will be refined and improved; ethical issues are being worked out
- "Algorithms don't have to be perfect; they just have to be better than people"
- In the future, the world may be governed by benevolent AI

CONCERNS

Theme 3 Humanity and human judgment are lost when data and predictive modeling become paramount

- Programming primarily in pursuit of profits and efficiencies is a threat
- Algorithms manipulate people and outcomes, and even "read our minds"
- All of this will lead to a flawed yet inescapable logic-driven society
- Some fear people could lose sophisticated decision-making capabilities and local intelligence
- As code takes over complex systems, humans are left out of the loop
- Solutions should include embedding respect for the individual

Theme 4 Biases exist in algorithmically-organized systems

- Algorithms reflect the biases of programmers and datasets
- Algorithms depend upon data that is often limited, deficient or incorrect

Theme 5 Algorithmic categorizations deepen divides

- The disadvantaged are likely to be even more so
- Algorithms create filter bubbles and silos shaped by corporate data collectors. They limit people's exposure to a wider range of ideas and reliable information and eliminate serendipity

Theme 6 Unemployment will rise

- Smarter, more-efficient algorithms will displace many human work activities
- Some seek a redefined global economic system to support humanity

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Theme 7 The need grows for algorithmic literacy, transparency and oversight

- It starts with algorithm literacy – this goes beyond basic digital literacy
- People call for accountability processes, oversight and transparency
- Many are pessimistic about the prospects for policy rules and oversight

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Excerpted from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/02/08/code-dependent-pros-and-cons-of-the-algorithm-age/>

Mock Client Interviews/Client Presentations

In your career, you may need to communicate with a variety of people throughout the software creation process. Some of you will need to communicate effectively directly with clients who know very little about information technology. Others will need to be able to express your ideas to colleagues who also know little about your work. Learning to ascertain others' needs while communicating complex concepts at a level they can understand may become an important aspect of your career. The following role play activities will allow you to practice this skill.

Role plays:

Working in pairs or groups of three, you will meet with clients (another pair or group of three) to ascertain their organization's software needs. Each group will be provided a client scenario.

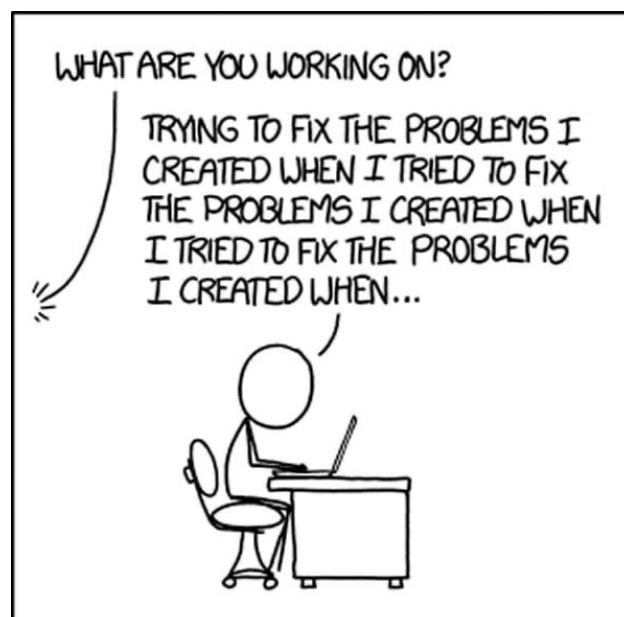
Reminder: When working with a client, assume the client knows nothing about IT. They may know what business outcome they want, but they don't know what they need in IT terms, because they lack technical expertise. That's why they called you.

Step 1: Listen to the clients' description of what they want. Then, working with your teammate(s), create a list of questions you will use to ascertain the clients' software needs. Using these questions, interview your clients to gain insight into what they want their software to do.

Step 2: Create a client proposal, outlining your ideas and how you plan to meet their needs.

Step 3: Present your ideas to your clients.

Note: The following pages contain resources to help you come up with client interview questions.



When playing the *role of client*, you should think about...

- sample situations from your work
- ideas on the expected system
- the UI (user interface) screens
- the process of using the system

When playing the *role of developer*, you should listen to the client instead of thinking about...

- the solutions
- potential technical problems
- the internal structure of the system

Two important skills underly effective conversations with clients:

- The ability to adopt the perspective of the client
- The ability to lead a conversation in a conscious way

Keep in mind that functionality requests from a business will generally imply one of the following two types of ***business needs***:

- Benefits to gain (for example, to increase sales)
- Problems to avoid (for example, to avoid the closure of a department)

The resulting software may be the same, but from the client perspective the need is not the same. Understanding your client's underlying needs can help you better meet their software needs. They may not express these needs clearly.

In talking about problems to avoid, you client may say things like:

- "I want to avoid..."
- "I do not want..."
- "It is difficult because..."
- "If we do not do that, then..."

When referring to benefits to gain, they might say:

- "I expect that...."
- "Thanks to...."
- "It should/must/can/could...."
- "It would be great if...."

What kinds of questions should you ask to ascertain a client's needs?

To clarify what motivates your client to want a particular functionality, or what value the client attributes to it, you might ask the following types of questions:

Problems to be solved:

- Why is it important?
- What is hard about it?

- What will you prevent?
- What can you lose?
- What are you trying to avoid?
- What might happen if you do not get this functionality?
- How much money can you lose?

Benefits to gain:

- What will it give you?
- What is the purpose of it?
- What or how much do you have to gain?
- What will happen if we implement it?
- What will be possible then?
- What can you achieve?
- What new opportunities are associated with it?
- What is new in it?

To determine direction (benefit gain or problem to solve?) of your client conversation, you might want to start with questions like:

- What made you want this functionality?
- What is important about this functionality?

When faced with vague answers, you might ask questions like:

- How will you know that...?
- How will you measure that...?
- How? In what way?
- What specifically will make you...?
- Who? Where? When? With whom? How much?
- Give an example of....

To gain concrete information about a client's needs, you might follow-up on general requests with the following questions:

- How? How exactly? What exactly?
- What does it consist of?
- How do you measure it?
- How much? When? Where? With whom?
- How do you know that?
- Give an example of....
- In what order?

Grammar matters:

Is VS should be...

When asked about how a process works, people often describe how things should work, instead of how they really work. You might want to ask:

- "Is it actually working the way you describe it?"

- How does it function in your daily practice?”

Watch for modals:

Words like “may”, “could”, “should”, “must”, and other modals reflect different shades of priority. “Must” has the highest priority, then there is “should”, then “could”, and finally “may”.

Be mindful of tense:

In the **past tense**, the client recalls his daily activities. Using the past tense is a good way to learn what’s really going on. Focusing attention on the client’s past allows you to learn the true current state of affairs instead of learning how things *should* be.

Use the **present tense** to talk about user interfaces and user experience. This perspective allows the client to precisely define their own expectations.

The situation changes if the second part of your question is “what window will you see?” Using the **future tense** in this way turns the client into an observer of several alternative scenarios rather than a user of just one.

| Use Past Tense | Use Present Tense | Use Future Tense |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you want to identify your client’s problems • When you want to gather information on the real situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When defining *UCs and scenarios • When designing user screens • When you want to learn how the application should function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you want to identify the client’s business goals • When you want to identify the benefits to be created by the software |

*UC: use case

Extra Reading Comprehension Practice

Russian hackers targeted US nuclear research laboratories, records reveal

Fri 6 Jan 2023 16.55 GMT

Cold River team launched attack on three facilities last summer as it escalates hacking campaign against Ukraine's allies

A Russian hacking team known as Cold River targeted three nuclear research laboratories in the United States this past summer, according to internet records reviewed by Reuters and five cybersecurity experts.

Between August and September, as Vladimir Putin indicated Russia would be willing to use nuclear weapons to defend its territory, Cold River targeted the Brookhaven (BNL), Argonne (ANL) and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories (LLNL), according to internet records that showed the hackers creating fake login pages for each institution and emailing nuclear scientists in an effort to make them reveal their passwords.

Reuters was unable to determine why the labs were targeted or if any attempted intrusion was successful. A BNL spokesperson declined to comment. LLNL did not respond to a request for comment. An ANL spokesperson referred questions to the US Department of Energy, which declined to comment.

Cold River has escalated its hacking campaign against Kyiv's allies since the invasion of Ukraine, according to cybersecurity researchers and western government officials. The digital blitz against the US labs occurred as UN experts entered Russian-controlled Ukrainian territory to inspect Europe's biggest atomic power plant and assess the risk of what both sides said could be a devastating radiation disaster amid heavy shelling nearby.

Cold River, which first appeared on the radar of intelligence professionals after targeting Britain's Foreign Office in 2016, has been involved in dozens of other high-profile hacking incidents in recent years, according to interviews with nine cybersecurity firms. Reuters traced email accounts used in its hacking operations between 2015 and 2020 to an IT worker in the Russian city of Syktyvkar.

"This is one of the most important hacking groups you've never heard of," said Adam Meyers, senior vice-president of intelligence at US cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike. "They are involved in directly supporting Kremlin information operations."

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the domestic security agency that also conducts espionage campaigns for Moscow, and Russia's embassy in Washington did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

Western officials say the Russian government is a global leader in hacking and uses cyber-espionage to spy on foreign governments and industries to seek a competitive advantage. However, Moscow has consistently denied that it carries out hacking operations.

Reuters showed its findings to five industry experts who confirmed the involvement of Cold River in the attempted nuclear labs hacks, based on shared digital fingerprints that researchers have historically tied to the group.

The US National Security Agency (NSA), Britain's GCHQ and the Foreign Office all declined to comment.

In May, Cold River broke into and leaked emails belonging to the former head of Britain's MI6 spy service. That was just one of several "hack and leak" operations last year by Russia-linked hackers in which confidential communications were made public in Britain, Poland and Latvia.

In another recent espionage operation targeting critics of Moscow, Cold River registered domain names designed to imitate at least three European NGOs investigating war crimes, according to French cybersecurity firm Sekoia.io.

The NGO-related hacking attempts occurred just before and after the 18 October launch of a report by a UN independent commission of enquiry that found Russian forces were responsible for the "vast majority" of human rights violations in the early weeks of the Ukraine war.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/russian-hackers-targeted-us-nuclear-research-laboratories-records>

Comprehension questions:

T/F, Justify:

1. The hackers used malware to hack into three US nuclear laboratories.
2. The hackers successfully hacked into at least one laboratory.
3. Cold River has been hacking since at least 2016.
4. Cold River appears to have direct ties to the Russian Government.
5. The criminals left fingerprints on the laboratory's computers that they used to hack into their system.

Short answer:

6. What links France to Cold River?

MY TEN

Riz Ahmed Finds the Beat Between Qawwali and House Music

The actor and rapper, who is shooting the sci-fi thriller "Invasion" with Octavia Spencer, talked about the things that he turned to "at different moments to recalibrate or go back to the well," he said.

By Kathryn Shattuck

Published Nov. 10, 2020 Updated Nov. 13, 2020

8 MIN READ

Riz Ahmed, the British actor, rapper and activist, tends to speak in paragraphs filled with vivid details. But in his latest role, as a punk-metal drummer who loses his hearing, he learned a different way to express himself.

"As someone who plays a lot with words — spoken word and poetry and other stuff — it really forced me to step out of my comfort zone," Ahmed said of "Sound of Metal," which premieres in theaters Nov. 20 and on Amazon Prime Video Dec. 4. "I think it opened me up physically in subtle but also quite profound ways."

When they first met to discuss the movie, the director Darius Marder laid out the terms: Nothing would be faked — not the drumming or the American Sign Language central to Ahmed's character, Ruben. After some initial trepidation, Ahmed decided he was up for the challenge.

"Suddenly these two things that were quite daunting got me excited," he said. So for seven and a half months he "stopped the rest of my life," he said, and diligently studied both.

His life now resumed, Ahmed — an Oxford grad whose résumé includes "Rogue One," "Jason Bourne" and "Venom," as well as a lead actor Emmy for HBO's "The Night Of" — spent lockdown in London this spring. In March, his conceptual album, "The Long Goodbye," addressed his "feeling like your country's breaking up with you" in the wake of Brexit.

In a Zoom interview from Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he has been shooting "Invasion" with Octavia Spencer, Ahmed elaborated on his cultural essentials — "things that I turn to at different moments to recalibrate or go back to the well," he said. "Things that speak to my identity."

These are edited excerpts from the conversation.

1. Mathieu Kassovitz's "La Haine"

It's a film that I stumbled across when I was a teenager. It was showing late night, a subtitled black-and-white movie. Normally I would have changed the channel. But it was so stylish in how it was shot and edited, and these characters that would jump bursting out of the screen were characters that I felt I recognized. It opened me up to a different kind of cinema.

I feel like it's a timeless movie, sadly. It's about riots in the wake of a police-brutality killing in Paris, and it's something that resonates today. It's a story of adolescent malaise and marginalization and what that

combination can do. But it's also a hilarious film. It's a very youthful film. It gives me an indescribable feeling.

2. Short stories by Saadat Hasan Manto

He was a master of the dark satirical short story. He was put on trial for indecency, purely because he chose to portray lives that were not considered worthy of being portrayed. I've never been able to sit still for very long, so I've always had a tormented relationship with reading. Some of his stories are under a page, but they cut so deep.

He has written about the horrors of partition. He has written about displacement, about how these labels of nationality and identity are fluid. It's like building a hut on quicksand, and that speaks to my own experience as a child of immigrants and someone who travels a lot. One short story, "Toba Tek Singh," was particularly an inspiration to me on "The Long Goodbye." Toba Tek Singh is someone who refuses to pick a side, who decides to build his home in no man's land. That idea is something that I'm trying to do with my work.

3. Rainer Maria Rilke's "Go to the Limits of Your Longing"

It speaks to a spirituality that I can just get down with — this idea that divinity lives in the shadow of our actions. It resonates with the verse from the Quran about God's light being described as a lamp in a niche. And it's a metaphor I've returned to on "Can I Live."

I also loved this line, "Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror." That's an incredible invitation, and something that brings me back to part of why I choose to act. It's about a desire to want to experience it all, and to not make everything happen but to let everything happen to you. There's an element of surrender in there.

4. '90s Multiculturalism

In the '90s there was this moment of celebrating multiculturalism in the U.K. Sanjeev Bhaskar and Meera Syal created "Goodness Gracious Me," this groundbreaking sitcom like "Key & Peele" or "Chappelle's Show." With hits like "Bend It Like Beckham" or "Bhaji on the Beach," suddenly we were on the screen. And it wasn't actors browned up doing Apu accents. This was us. Similarly, in music, Bally Sagoo coming up with these remix cassettes where you'd take hip-hop beats and Bollywood beats, and you'd buy them at a local paan store. I pay homage to this in a short film called "Daytimer." A big part of this culture was daytime raves, because South Asian girls with strict conservative families weren't allowed out at night. So we would do all of our parties in the daytime. And you could go and then put back your school uniform, and no one would know any better.

5. Aziz Mian's "Main Sharabi"

Aziz Mian was a qawwali singer. And qawwali is a genre that I've been increasingly taking an interest in as I think about how I can pull from my own cultural heritage and contribute to hip-hop, which I'm so cognizant is a Black art form. Qawwali is an amazing template to create within authentically, in that it's a mixture of a kind of rap and spoken word and singing. It's a Sufi tradition of gospel jazz. It's improvised and quite punk, but it's also quite devotional.

Aziz Mian was iconoclastic. He was deeply controversial. "Sharabi" means alcoholic, and what he says in the song is, "I'm an alcoholic, I'm an alcoholic." And what he's talking about is the intoxication of

divine energy. It was mind-blowing for me, because it's this tightrope of the sacred and the profane that you often have in qawwali, and that Aziz Mian took to its limit.

6. Mos Def's "Black on Both Sides"

It's an album that keeps on giving. I revisited the track "Love" the other day. When I first came to this album I was a teenager. When I've returned to it now in my mid-30s, I'm recognizing like, oh, wow, he's referencing bell hooks when he talks about, "Is this the pain of too much tenderness?" You know, when bell hooks talks about how men might run from love because of the pain of making yourself vulnerable. But what he's talking about is writing and the idea of losing yourself within the ink that spills onto the page.

7. British Rave Music

We have this very proud tradition of sound-system culture that comes from the Jamaican influence in London, which is huge. And from that, we put it through our blender to create these new genres of music every few years. It's drum and bass, it's jungle, then it's garage, then it's grind, then it's dubstep, then it's drill. There's something just so restlessly creative in London's concrete. Whenever I finished a film in America, I used to give people USB sticks of a playlist that would educate them on U.K. rave music. U.K. Apache's "Original Nuttah" is a great primer into what jungle music is. You've got a British-Iraqi guy who has named himself Apache Indian, rapping in a mixture of cockney slang and Jamaican patois. I grew up speaking Jamaican slang. I was 20 before I understood they were Jamaican words.

Roy Davis Jr.'s "Gabriel," sung by Peven Everett, is actually a U.S. garage track, but it takes places in that transition between [U.K.] house and garage. It's an anthem, really. I think a lot of people in my generation would be like, "Play it at my funeral."

But the most recent manifestation that's close to my heart is Jai Paul's 2013 leaked album, because it blends together all that amazing U.K. music and Black music with Bollywood music and Indian music. He's created a language that really resonates with me.

8. South Asian Art

A couple of years ago, I decided to start buying small bits of art. The piece that really means a lot to me is a print by Raghu Rai. He took a photo in the late '70s or early '80s called "Life Outside Jama Masjid," which is one of the main mosques in Delhi. It's a guy who looks a little bit down on his luck — he might be drunk or stoned — and there's a woman holding him by the cheeks to cheer him up. And there's a crowd of people who are possibly more on the fringes of society that are gathered outside this mosque to cheer each other up. It struck me as what religion can be about at its best, providing a space of dignity for people who may not feel like they're afforded dignity elsewhere.

I started buying Mughal miniatures under the tutelage of Navina Haidar, the curator of Islamic art at the Met museum. It's so crazy that as brown creatives, we don't know about our heritage. How are we going to move forward unless we know where we're coming from? I've got quite a morbid piece called "Thief in the Night," from like the 1400s. It's a miniature of a thief breaking into someone's house and killing him. But it's painted so beautifully. I also got to know Salman Toor's work when I was preparing for "Sound of Metal." There's this amazing piece called "East Village Apartment." It's this Pakistani guy who's in his apartment, and he's got all these books on his table about Indian painting and Pakistani history. He's trying to do his best to understand where he comes from. But he's got his head tilted back in exasperation with a glass of wine in his hand, and out the window you see a downtown mosque. And

he can't bear to look at the mosque and he can't bear to look at the books. I thought it was a beautiful depiction of this busy limbo that so many of us live in.

9. Alocasia Zebrina

So I bought plants during lockdown. Changed my life. I love them — they're my babies. *Alocasia zebrina* is a beautiful plant because it's like the elephant ear, but it's stripy like a zebra on the stems. And what's crazy about it is how much they arch toward the sun. They're so cheeky. They'll go all the way to try and hit the window. I didn't know what I was doing for a while and I only had one leaf left. And it snapped, and I was mortified. I thought it was done. But it was so resilient, and I managed to stake the plant and to fertilize it and now it's sprouting babies. It's just so satisfying. As someone who has grown up in a city, I never thought the countryside was really for me. It's connecting me to nature in quite a personal way.

10. His Mum's Do Pyaaza Recipe

"Do pyaaza" means from two onions. It's a very simple curry dish that during lockdown my mum taught me, like, "Here's something you can make and not screw up." The onions caramelize, so it's a cheap way of having a sweet curry. Quick to make, very fresh, not too oily, not too much of a sherva to it. My mouth is watering as I'm talking about it. It just tastes like home to me.

MY 10

H.E.R. Still Finds Inspiration in Prince and 'Martin'

The Grammy- and Oscar-winning performer talks about her new album, the moment she knew she wanted to be a rock star and why R&B isn't dead.

By Kathryn Shattuck
July 6, 2021

5 MIN READ

H.E.R. doesn't want her music to be boxed in.

"When I was creating it, I wasn't really aiming for anything," the singer-songwriter-instrumentalist said of "Back of My Mind," her new 21-track album. "But when I started sequencing it and putting it together, I realized that a lot of the songs that I created were different moods of R&B."

The album was her playground, with references to early projects as well as those she hadn't yet put out; featured vocals by Ty Dolla Sign, Cordae, Lil Baby and Chris Brown; reverb-y Dave Grohl-esque drums and trap beats; and "a bunch of really dope women working with me behind the scenes," she said. "And all of those sounds turned into a celebration of all the things that R&B could be."

It has been a heady few months, even for H.E.R. (Gabriella Sarmiento Wilson), who as a child prodigy practiced acceptance speeches. In February, she performed "America the Beautiful" at the Super Bowl kickoff show before winning, in March, a song of the year Grammy for "I Can't Breathe" and, in April, a best original song Oscar for "Fight for You." She was only 23.

Now comes the three-part "Prime Day Show" on Amazon, set in a reimagined Dunbar Hotel in Los Angeles, which was a hub of Black culture in the 1930s and '40s. And in August, she'll take the stage at the Hollywood Bowl, while squeezing in work on a reggae EP that she hopes to release later this year.

As H.E.R.'s star rises, so has her awareness as a role model.

"Now I have this thing that I have to take care of and cherish, this ability to inspire and encourage women who are trying to figure out who they want to become, or who don't want to fit into social norms," she said.

"I think anybody should want to think outside the box and be who they are, truly," she added. "That's what my album is about. And that's the message that I carry with me in everything that I do."

In a call from Brooklyn, where she was rehearsing before heading to Los Angeles ("I live everywhere," she said), H.E.R. spoke about a few of her own inspirations. These are edited excerpts from the conversation.

1. Fender Stratocaster Black and White Guitar

The first guitar my dad bought me was like a mini one for kids, and I learned to play the blues pentatonic scale. I want to say I was seven years old. I've been a Fender fan since then, and we had been having conversations about making my own guitar ever since I performed at the 2019 Grammys,

and they created an acrylic Strat for me that was clear. I decided to make it chrome, and it also matches the holographic chrome design that I like to put on my nails sometimes. I designed it and picked all the effects and noiseless pickups. And I became the first Black woman to do a collaboration with Fender.

2. Her Signature Eyeglasses

Most of the time people don't recognize me [without my glasses on]. I'm like the female reverse Clark Kent. My favorite pair are these black frames that I actually designed in collaboration with DIFF eyewear, and they're clear, and they're blue-light glasses so they protect from you looking at screens.

I've always loved glasses, but I started to be more intentional about wearing them when I started doing shows in 2017 after I dropped my first project, "Volume 1." And I thought, let's obscure the lights and I'll wear glasses – because my music is the window to my soul, and not my eyes.

3. "Rave Un2 the Year 2000"

That's a Prince concert DVD that I watched growing up. It was on every single weekend in my house, and it inspired me a lot. The moment with him and Lenny Kravitz performing – they did "American Woman" and "Fly Away" together – I was just so, like, "Man, I want to be a rock star."

4. Her Mom's Filipino Dishes

Lumpia is like a roll. There's meat and vegetables in it, and it's very delicious. It's a long process to make but it's what I grew up eating in my Filipino household. Halo-halo means "mix-mix" in Tagalog. I grew up eating it every day after school. There's jellies and shaved ice and evaporated milk and ice cream and jackfruit and sweet beans and all kinds of stuff. My mom made it, and she taught me how to make it.

5. And Her Dad's Fried Chicken

I don't eat other people's fried chicken. He grew up in Arkansas, and he brought Southern cooking into our house in the Bay Area in California.

6. Prince's "Purple Rain"

I got to watch the movie when I was a kid, and my dad kind of skipped over the bad parts. It's iconic – Prince absolutely killed that whole movie. I've played a lot of songs, but "Purple Rain" is one of those songs I definitely studied and covered. I wish, I wish [I would have met Prince]. I did get to see him live, though.

7. Apollo Theater

I performed at the Apollo when I was 9 years old. I performed "Freeway of Love" by Aretha Franklin, and it was my first time in New York City, and my family came. They actually threw a little concert in our hometown so that we could afford to stay in New York for days. And then fast forward to early this year. I had the opportunity to go to D'Angelo's Verzuz that he did on Instagram Live, and he sang "Best Part" with me.

It's just such a legendary place. Freshly coming from California, for me it just seemed like a world away. And so to be able to go there and perform — and then perform again with one of my favorite artists and a legend, D'Angelo — it just made the place even more special.

8. Golden State Warriors

I used to love going to Warriors games when I was a kid. When I was 10 or 11, I sang the national anthem at a Warriors and Lakers game. And I got to see Baron Davis and Stephen Jackson and Matt Barnes. They were all on the Warriors at that time of the "We Believe" era. I haven't been to a Warriors game in a really long time. But I was at a Nets game the other day, and it was fun. Go-go Nets.

9. "Martin," starring Martin Lawrence

It's one of those late-night shows for when you can't sleep. If I'm having a bad day and that comes on, like that, I forget. [Martin plays a D.J. and talk-show host], and it's about his relationship with his girlfriend's best friend. And he also plays the Sheneneh character and then he plays a pimp, and it's hilarious. I still watch it. It's timeless.

10. Lights On Festival

It's something that I started in 2019, and obviously I couldn't do in 2020, but it was a huge success and I didn't expect it — 14,000 people at the Concord Pavilion [in Concord, Calif.], and the whole lineup was R&B artists.

That proved to me that R&B is still alive, and that people love it and they need it. So I'm bringing my festival back in September. We're going to keep the music going.

MY TEN

Billie Eilish Is in the Mood for Love (and a Weighted Blanket)

The singer-songwriter gets candid about her new documentary, her dream first date and her perfume obsession.

By Sarah Bahr

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6 MIN READ

Billie Eilish can't stop making lists.

"I'm just finding ways of enjoying life," the 19-year-old singer-songwriter said late last month. "I really like cleaning my room and rearranging things."

She's also been working on the follow-up to her debut album, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" from 2019, which helped her win all four top Grammys – best new artist, record of the year, song of the year and album of the year – and made her the youngest person ever, and the first woman, to pull off the sweep.

It was the latest milestone in a meteoric rise chronicled in a new documentary, "Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry," out on Apple TV+ Friday. But that doesn't mean Eilish's rapid ascent is easy for her to watch. "I'm watching it like, 'Shut the [expletive] up,'" she said. "It's brutal. I'm like, 'Don't talk about that!'" ("It's really nice to get to watch myself go through all these amazing things from another point of view," she added of the "painfully honest" movie.)

The film, directed by R.J. Cutler, traces a fairy tale career that has seen Eilish's homemade songs streamed more than a billion times on digital platforms while she's collected over 75 million followers on Instagram. It chronicles the creation of that award-winning LP, and was filmed from 2018 through early 2020.

Eilish has spent the past year enjoying recent milestones like voting, driving and accidentally ordering 70 boxes of Froot Loops online. She also wrote a song with Rosalía, "Lo Vas a Olvidar" ("You Will Forget It"), which premiered during a special episode of the HBO series "Euphoria."

1. The Strokes' "The New Abnormal"

When I first found the album, I was going on a lot of bike rides. I would play the whole album on my speaker backpack and ride around random neighborhoods, and it was always sunny and breezy and pretty and green. Julian Casablancas is just a genius – every time I hear his lyrics I think, "I would never think to say that." That's what I love about them – they're so unexpected, but also relatable. Every single song is good.

2. Anything Scented

When I was growing up, everybody said I had a "Super Sniffer," which is a phrase from the show "Psych" and basically means you can smell really well. I don't know how, though, because my nose is very small! Mine is kind of extreme because I also have synesthesia, which is when your brain pairs two things automatically – every smell has a certain color, number and day of the week. I have probably 100 perfumes, and I label the bottles with little pieces of paper so I can remember what they smell like to me. Some are very specific, like, "This one smells like a ballet class I used to be in," or "This one smells

like that one day we went to this person's house and this person said this," and some are more vague, like, "This Hawaiian Punch perfume I got at CVS for \$1 smells like 2015," the whole year. Some are so strong that I can't smell them at all anymore because I get overwhelmed with the memory.

3. Crossroads Kitchen

I've never been on a date — no one has ever taken me on a [expletive] date before! — but if I were to go on one, Crossroads would be the dream. It's a vegan restaurant in Los Angeles, and it's bomb. It's the most delicious food ever. The meatball sub and chicken waffles are my go-tos. They're both entrees, so every time I go they're like, "What do you want?" and I'm like "The meatball sub," and then they want to move on to the next person, but I'm like, "Also, the chicken waffles." And I eat them both right up. I don't have any leftovers afterward.

4. "I'm in the Mood for Love"

The first time I heard this song was on "The Little Rascals," which was my favorite show when I was kid. All I wanted was to be a Little Rascal; I wanted to kiss Alfalfa so bad! There's a scene where Darla sings "I'm in the Mood for Love," and I remember thinking it was such a pretty song. Then years and years went by, until one day, I was like, "What was that song that I thought was so pretty when I was little?" And I found a really beautiful, but low-quality, Frank Sinatra version on SoundCloud, which I listened to when I was traveling through Europe on tour. And then recently, I found this Julie London version, and she just murders it. She has one of the most beautiful voices I've ever heard. It's just such a perfect love song. Every time I hear it, no matter what I'm feeling, it makes me want love.

5. Cards

On tour we have a lot of waiting time — yes, tour, a thing from the past! — and I can't really go outside because the fans are lined up around the block. But we come up with things to do. Our go-to game is Speed, which is a card game my assistant tour manager, Lauren Millar, taught me how to play on this really long bus ride in Russia — we played it for like two hours straight that day. And from then on we just played it nonstop. It started as kind of a time-taker-upper and ended as a thing we'd do when we were supposed to be doing other things.

6. "We Need to Talk About Kevin"

This movie has the most beautiful cinematography I've ever seen — everything about it is perfectly done, from the framing to the colors. It's been one of my biggest inspirations for my own music videos. Every time I watch it I see something new that's genius about the way it was shot.

7. Driving

Once I learned how to drive, it was all I wanted to do. It's a place where I feel very free and anonymous and in control. I drive a black Dodge Challenger, which was my dream car growing up. I saved my money for years and years, and I used to be like, "I don't want anyone to buy it for me because I want to buy it myself with my own money." But then Justin [Lubliner], my label guy, a couple months before my birthday was like, "What do you want for your birthday, Billie?" and I, just jokingly, was like, "A Dodge Challenger, in matte black." And I was like, "Just kidding, don't get me that, obviously." Then the night before my birthday, we did a photo shoot for the cover of my album, and at the end of the day Justin drove up in my dream car — I cried for probably three hours straight.

8. Weighted Blanket

My mom got one when I was 9 or 10 because she can't fall asleep without a lot of weight on her — one time when she was younger, she woke up between her mattress and her bed frame! I had just been using hers, and then eventually I got my own. I get so much better sleep under it, and it's a good physical affection tool when you don't have any.

9. "New Girl"

I've seen this show like six times, and I just started rewatching it again. It's just very entertaining and stupid and I love it. I watched it like 10 minutes ago right before I got on this call. I don't ever get tired of it because the actors are so hilarious. Max Greenfield is just one of my favorite people — he's so funny and so specifically himself. But Nick Miller is really just top-notch and is the best character. He's trending on Twitter right now for some reason; I don't know why. But I don't blame Twitter. Nick Miller's the GOAT.

10. Frank Ocean

"Blonde" is my go-to album to play any time at all, but especially when I need to relax. When I had a plaster mold made of my head for a photo shoot for the cover of *Garage* magazine a few years ago, I played Frank Ocean the entire hour so I wouldn't have a panic attack. I haven't gotten to meet him, but I don't expect him to ever even come near me. He can stay being God up in the clouds.

Extra Listening Comprehension Practice

Why Self-Driving Cars Have Stalled

Watch the following video and answer the comprehension questions below:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/video/2022/sep/08/why-self-driving-cars-have-stalled-video>

1. How does Elon Musk characterize autonomous vehicles?
2. What types of problems have arisen with this technology?
3. How does the Tesla autopilot beta-testing system differ from other software testing procedures?
4. How much does Tesla pay its beta-testers?
5. Who acquired licenses for unmanned taxi cars in 2022?
6. What happened (referring to number 5)?
7. What types of driving situations are easy for humans but hard for computers?
8. Who is teaching Tesla's autopilot software?
9. How does the speaker define edge cases?
10. Give at least one example of an edge case:
11. How many autonomous vehicle crashes investigated by the NHTSA since 2016 have involved fatalities?