

# Careful use of language

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# Which is the bigger deal?

1. A big deal.
2. A pretty big deal.



**Hank Green -**



@hankgreen

# What is a bigger deal?

**52%** A big deal

**48%** A pretty big deal

37,172 votes • Final results

1:33 pm - 26 Nov 2017

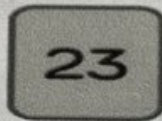
# Deepening



Teddy is comparing two numbers.



My number is larger than 19 but not one more than 19.



$>$



What could Teddy's number be? *21, 22*

What can't it be?

*- Anything else*

# Crash blossoms

- ▶ A name used for ambiguous headlines.
- ▶ Headlines are in serious danger of ambiguity because they shorten everything.
- ▶ For example,  
“Supreme court plans an attack on independent judiciary, says Labour” (Guardian, 2020).

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- ▶ For example,  
“Supreme court plans an attack on independent judiciary, says Labour” (Guardian, 2020).
- ▶ Could be the plans for a Supreme court are considered by Labour to be an attack on independent judiciary.
- ▶ Could be Labour are claiming that the Supreme court is planning to attack the independent judiciary.



# Crash blossoms

- ▶ Violinist Linked to JAL Crash Blossoms (Japan Today) [JAL is Japan Airlines]
- ▶ Paul Ryan calls on Maxine Waters to apologize (CNN)
- ▶ Infant pulled from wrecked car involved in short police pursuit (KMOV)
- ▶ Alaskan-developed satellite technology helps fire managers in COVID-19 era (KTUU)
- ▶ Scientists count whales from space (BBC)

# Prime digits



**Algebra Etc.**  
@AlgebraFact



The smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order is 100123456789.

# Prime digits



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The smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order is 100123456789.

► What does this mean?

# Prime digits



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The smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order is 100123456789.

- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ 1001 is not digits in consecutive order.

# Prime digits



**Algebra Etc.**  
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The smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order is 100123456789.

- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ 1001 is not digits in consecutive order.
- ▶ 2 is the smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order.

# Prime digits



**Algebra Etc.**  
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The smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order is 100123456789.

- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ 1001 is not digits in consecutive order.
- ▶ 2 is the smallest prime with all digits in consecutive order.
- ▶ Can you rephrase this post to avoid the ambiguity?

# Careful wording

- ▶ In problem solving, try to look out for ambiguities and make sure you understand all the information you have been told.

# Example

An orchestra of 120 players takes 74 minutes to play Beethoven's 9th Symphony. How long would it take for 60 players to play the Symphony? Let  $P$  be the number of players and  $T$  the time playing.