Careful use of language

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PLEASE
LEAVE THESE
TOILETS HOW
YOU WOULD
EXPECT TO
FIND THEM
THANK YOU
REPORT ANY ISSUE AT
RECEPTION
2024
Trowell
Garden Centre

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.

23 > ☐

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.
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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

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- 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.