

Why do we like Friends so much?

Is it

Monica's incessant need for cleanliness/order

Phoebe's non-subtle weirdness

Joey's boyish charm

Ross' nerdy-yet-cool expressions

Chandler's point blank wittiness

Rachel's breakout character



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Are these **all**?

Maybe not!

A random scene

[Scene Central Perk, everyone's there.]

Monica: What you guys don't understand is, for us, kissing is as important as any part of it.

Joey: Yeah, right!.....Y'serious?

Phoebe: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: Everything you need to know is in that first kiss.

Monica: Absolutely.

Chandler: Yeah, I think for us, kissing is pretty much like an opening act, y'know? I mean it's like the stand-up comedian you have to sit through before Pink Floyd comes out.

Ross: Yeah, and-and it's not that we don't like the comedian, it's that-that... that's not why we bought the ticket.

Chandler: The problem is, though, after the concert's over, no matter how great the show was, you girls are always looking for the comedian again, y'know? I mean, we're in the car, we're fighting traffic... basically just trying to stay awake.

Rachel: Yeah, well, word of advice: Bring back the comedian. Otherwise next time you're gonna find yourself sitting at home, listening to that album alone.

Joey: (pause)....Are we still talking about sex?

The above slide has about 10 dialogues and if you look closely you'd realise that all the six cast members have got at least one dialogue in that short scene, still making the scene coherent maintaining their own personalities.

This small scene shows how Friends' scripwriters have used Turn-taking to full potential still being able to keep every conversation coherent and I consider this as one of the top reasons why we like Friends so much.

Turn Taking in F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

Ashutosh Ranjan

Objective

**Who is your favourite
character in Friends?**

And why?

Turntaking: Aspects_[1]

Turn
allocation/
Turn offering

Turn
suppressing

Grounding

Turntaking: Aspects_[2]

Transition
relevance
phase

Adjacency
Pairs

Preference
Organisation



Turn Allocation/Offering

The current speaker

1. allocates turn to someone **specific(allocation)**.
2. give up your turn to the group for anyone(**non-specific**) to pick up the thread and continue (**offering**).

Example: Turn Allocation

Ross: Anyway, they want me to go down to this- sonogram thing with them tomorrow.

Rachel: So what are you gonna do?

Ross: I have no idea. No matter what I do, though, I'm still gonna be a father.

Turn Suppressing

Someone else is allocated the turn and you **interfere**, can be used to defend someone or yourself.



Example: Turn Suppressing

Phoebe: OK, I smell smoke. Maybe that's 'cause someone's pants are on fire.

Grandmother: Look, I...

Phoebe: Ya know, in all the years that we have been grandmother and granddaughter, you have never lied to me.

Example: Grounding

A night scene of a soccer field. In the foreground, several players in various colored jerseys (yellow, white, dark blue) are visible on the green grass. In the background, a large stadium light fixture is illuminated, casting a bright glow over the field. The sky is dark, and other distant lights are visible on the horizon.

Ross: Anyway, they want me to go down to this- sonogram thing with them tomorrow.

Rachel: So what are you gonna do?

Ross: I have no idea. No matter what I do, though, I'm still gonna be a father.

Transition Relevance Phase (TRP)

When a person (A) **pauses** either A can continue or the listener (B) can continue. Whenever a speaker stops there's a TRP where turn-taking happens.



Example: TRP

Monica: What you guys don't understand is, for us, kissing is as important as any part of it.

Joey: Yeah, right!.....Y'serious?

Phoebe: Oh, yeah!



Adjacency Pairs

When people talk the adjacent utterances tend to form special types of **pairs**, eg.

1. **Greeting-greeting.**
2. **Complement-thanking.**
3. **Query-answer.**

Example: Adjacency Pairs

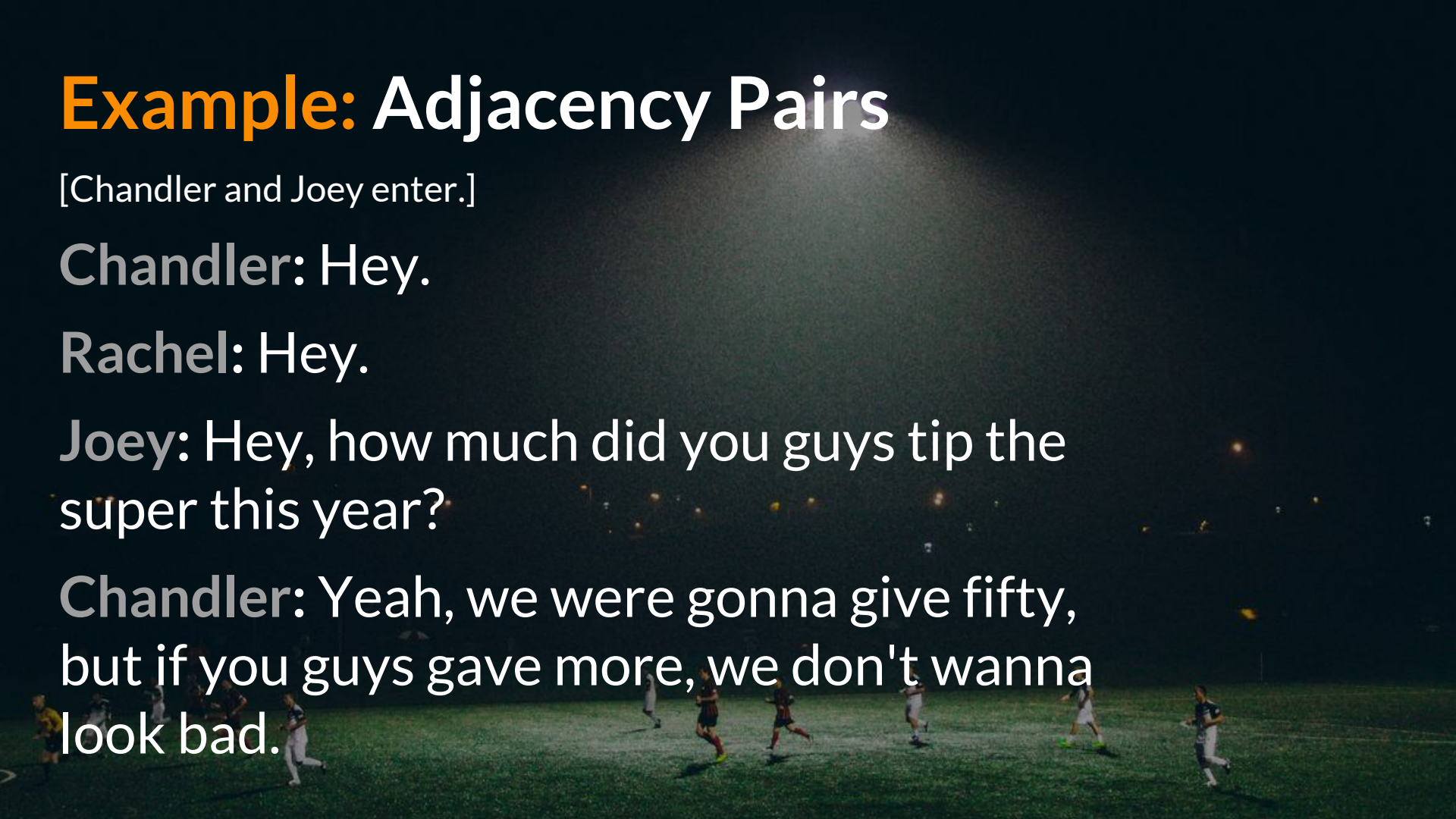
[Chandler and Joey enter.]

Chandler: Hey.

Rachel: Hey.

Joey: Hey, how much did you guys tip the super this year?

Chandler: Yeah, we were gonna give fifty, but if you guys gave more, we don't wanna look bad.



Preference Organisation

A listener's response should be a preferred(**relevant**) response to the speaker's comment otherwise they may lose track of the topic (**incoherent** conversation). Sometimes non-preferred response is preferred(**flouting maxims**) to express(**implicature**) something, eg. disinterest.



Example: Preference Organisation

Rachel: Has anybody seen my engagement ring?

Phoebe: Yes, it's beautiful.

A group of people are seated at a long table in a room with large floor-to-ceiling windows. They are looking out at a cityscape. The most prominent building in the view is St. Paul's Cathedral, with its large dome and classical architecture. Other buildings of varying heights and styles fill the rest of the background. The scene is captured from behind the people, creating a sense of shared experience and observation.

Thank you.

Questions?