

Being Boring 101

- Welcome to Being Boring 101
- This is a seminar dedicated to being boring
- Your presenter is woefully unprepared for this presentation
- You can tell because eh made sveveral tpyoes in his presentation
- He's also just reading the slides verbatim
- Most of you have already lost interest by now
- I can see you dozing off
- One might argue that this is an incredibly ineffective way to disseminate information and I could have just sent you an email
- I'm not that one though



BUT...

Ha ha I said but(t)



NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



The Funny Factor: Effective Use of Humor in Communication

James Rahn • geytso@icloud.com

Your Presenter

- James Rahn
- Saklan Lodge (Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council) - Eagle/Vigil
- "Professional" educator (in the money sense, not the behavior sense)
- Perpetual has-been in Scouting (Lodge Chief, CVOA/TVOA, NYLT, NAYLE, Wood Badge, Powder Horn, Seabadge, Kodiak, Program Director at Camp Alpine, etc).



James Rahn



Learning Objectives

1. Learn how to use humor as a tool for effective communication with various groups of people (children, adults, coworkers, etc).
2. Practice creating mnemonic devices that use the "Funny Factor"™ to increase understanding.
3. Understand the role of culture, intersectionality, and a person's individual circumstances in humor and its effect.
4. Understand the limits of when humor is useful, and when it is not.
5. Follow 1-4
6. Have fun



Super Fancy Communication Model



Message
Sender
Receiver

Channel/Environment
Feedback
Noise



Interpersonal Communication
A Mindful Approach to Relationships
Jason S. Wrench, Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, & Katherine S. Thweatt

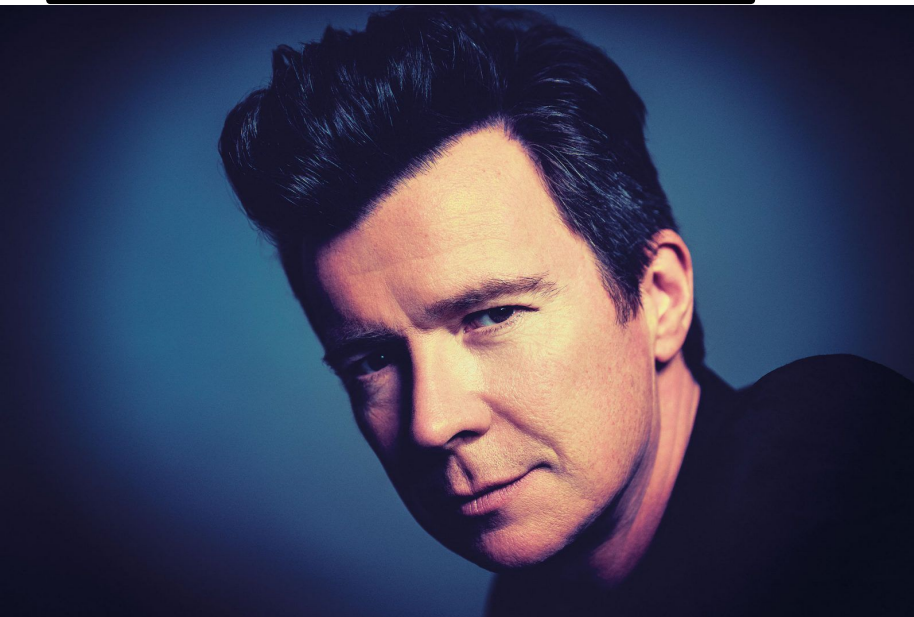


Let's practice! (video)

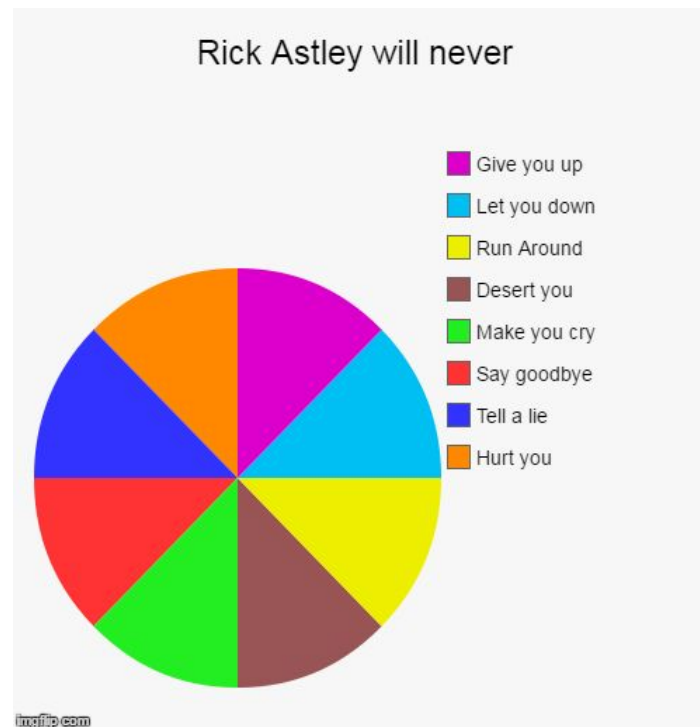


Examples from video

Sender



Message



Receiver

Admit it. 95% had seen this girl before yet no one knows what her name is.



Examples from video

Channel/Environment



Noise



Feedback



Barriers to Communication

Problem:

Those other guys dancing

Constantly changing location

Being British

Loud music in background

Solution:

Repetition (Give you up)

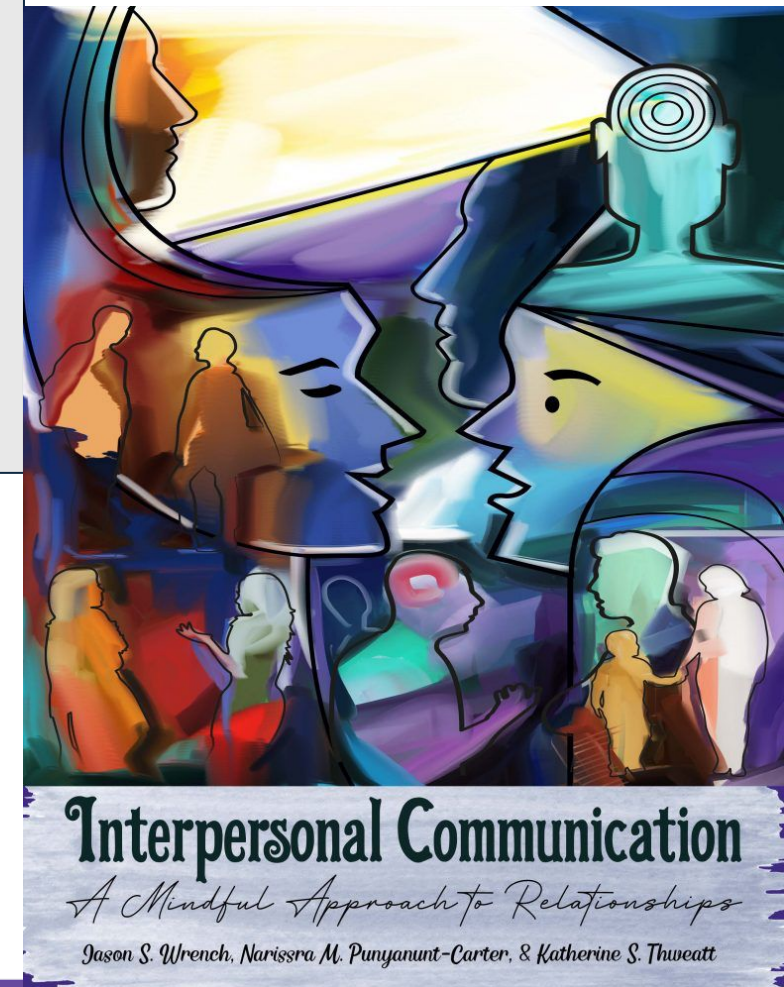
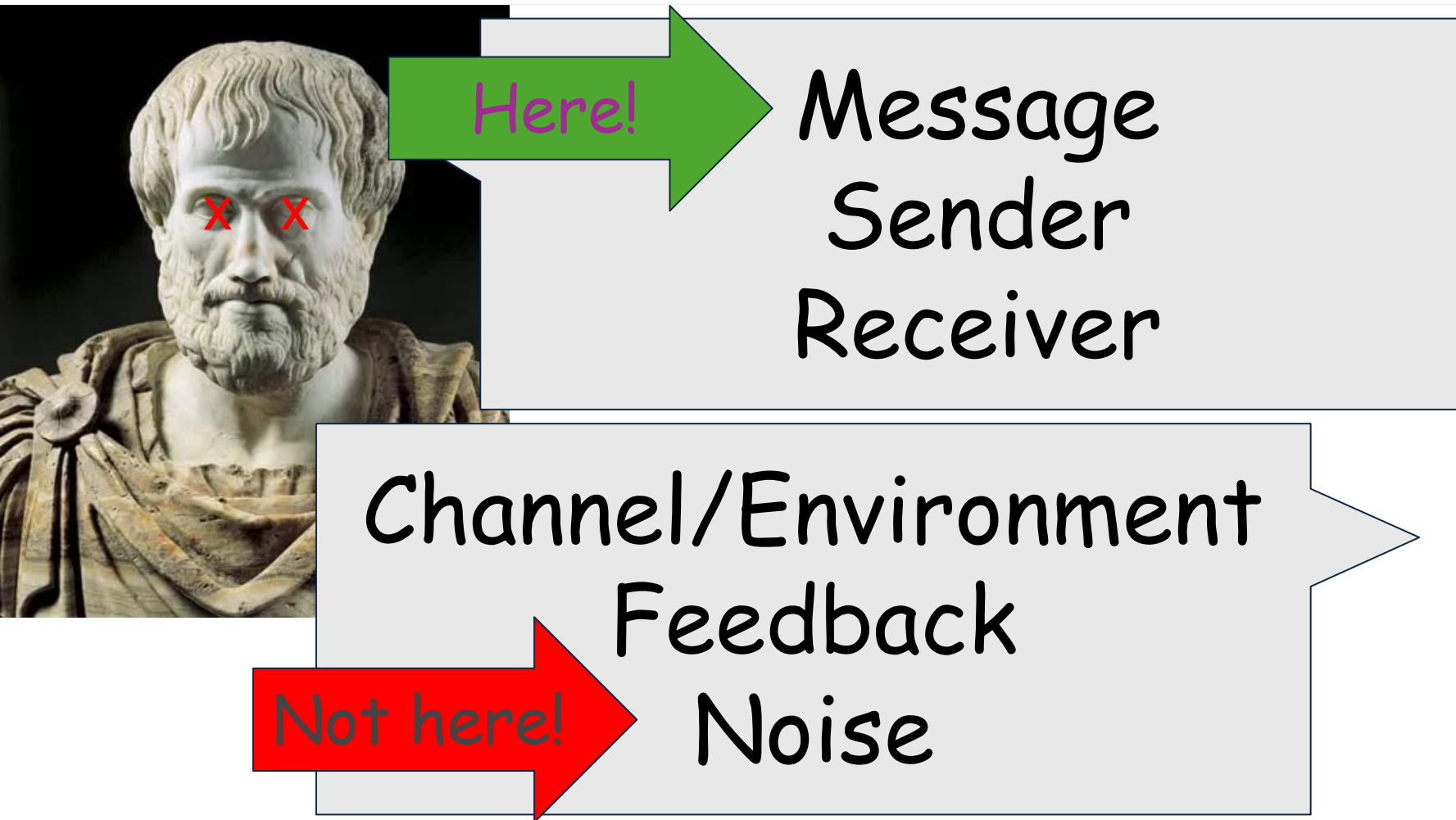
Repetition (Let you down)

Repetition (Run around)

Repetition (Desert you)



Where does humor fit in?



Good or Bad Use of Humor?



Hear ye, hear ye, watch the lodge adviser get DUNKED!

To: arrowmen@examplelodge.info

Dear Arrowmen of Example Lodge,

Tomorrow afternoon, we will let the fellowship commence at Camp Baldy! Not to be confused with Old Baldy, which is another name for Lodge Adviser Dave. And just a reminder if every single person brings \$500 cash for the fundraiser (more like fun-raiser amiright 💰), Lodge Adviser Dave has to get DUNKED! That's right, we rented a dunk tank from Dan's Dunk Tanks (event sponsor). Make sure to show up, and bring \$500, which you should leave in an unmarked envelope behind the local gas station.

Sincerely,
Joey B. Example
Lodge Chief



Good or Bad Use of Humor?

✓ Communicates WHY the Arrowmen should attend this event (get to dunk Lodge Adviser Dave)

X Makes fun of Lodge Adviser Dave (humor should make an effort to bring people up/together, not down)

X Does not communicate any details about the event itself (other than location and date); no time, schedule, etc.

XXX Email being sent about an event the day before (-100% credibility)

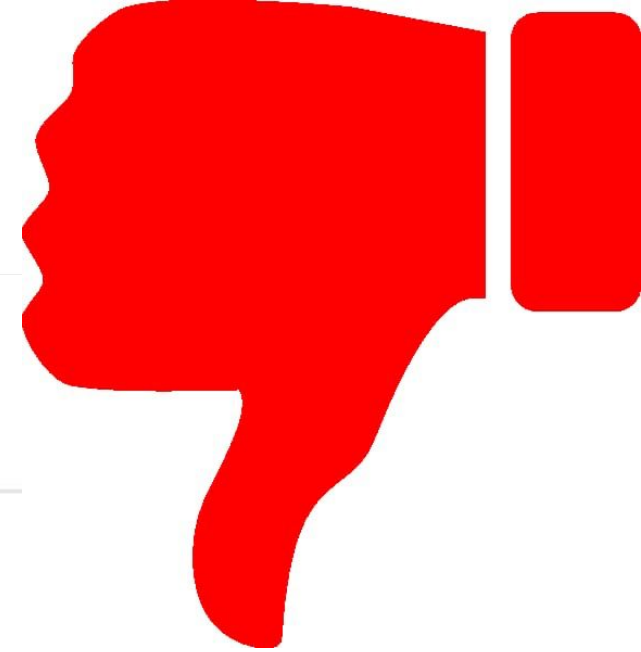


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Joey B. Example
Lodge Chief



Good or Bad Use of Humor?



Lodge Fellowship on 4/20

To: arrowmen@examplelodge.info

Dear Arrowmen of Example Lodge,

Do you enjoy the 3 F's (Food, Fellowship, and Fun)? (Not to be confused with my grades, which are also the 3 F's)

Do you want to buy the limited edition patch set, available at auction? (Make sure to bring your credit card, Adviser Dave)

Do you want to meet Arrowmen from all 18 chapters in our lodge?

If you want to do all of this and more, come to Camp Baldy 3 weekends from now to participate in the Big Baldy Bash, our annual lodge fellowship! Please sign up at <https://www.sketchylodgewebsite.info/register>

And just a reminder...if everyone donates at least \$500 to our live auction, Lodge Adviser Dave has to get the DUNK TANK! So please "Be Prepared" with lots of cash (or if you're Lodge Adviser Dave, a swimsuit...)

Hope to see you all there!

Yours in Service and Brotherhood,

Joey B. Example
Lodge Chief



Good or Bad Use of Humor?

- ✓ Communicates key details of the event
- ✓ Humor is more general and less directed at Adviser Dave
- ✓ Use of catchy slogans such as the 3 F's
- X Continues its onslaught against Adviser Dave (what did he ever do to you? 😭)
- X Still communicates very little information about the actual event



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What is humor?

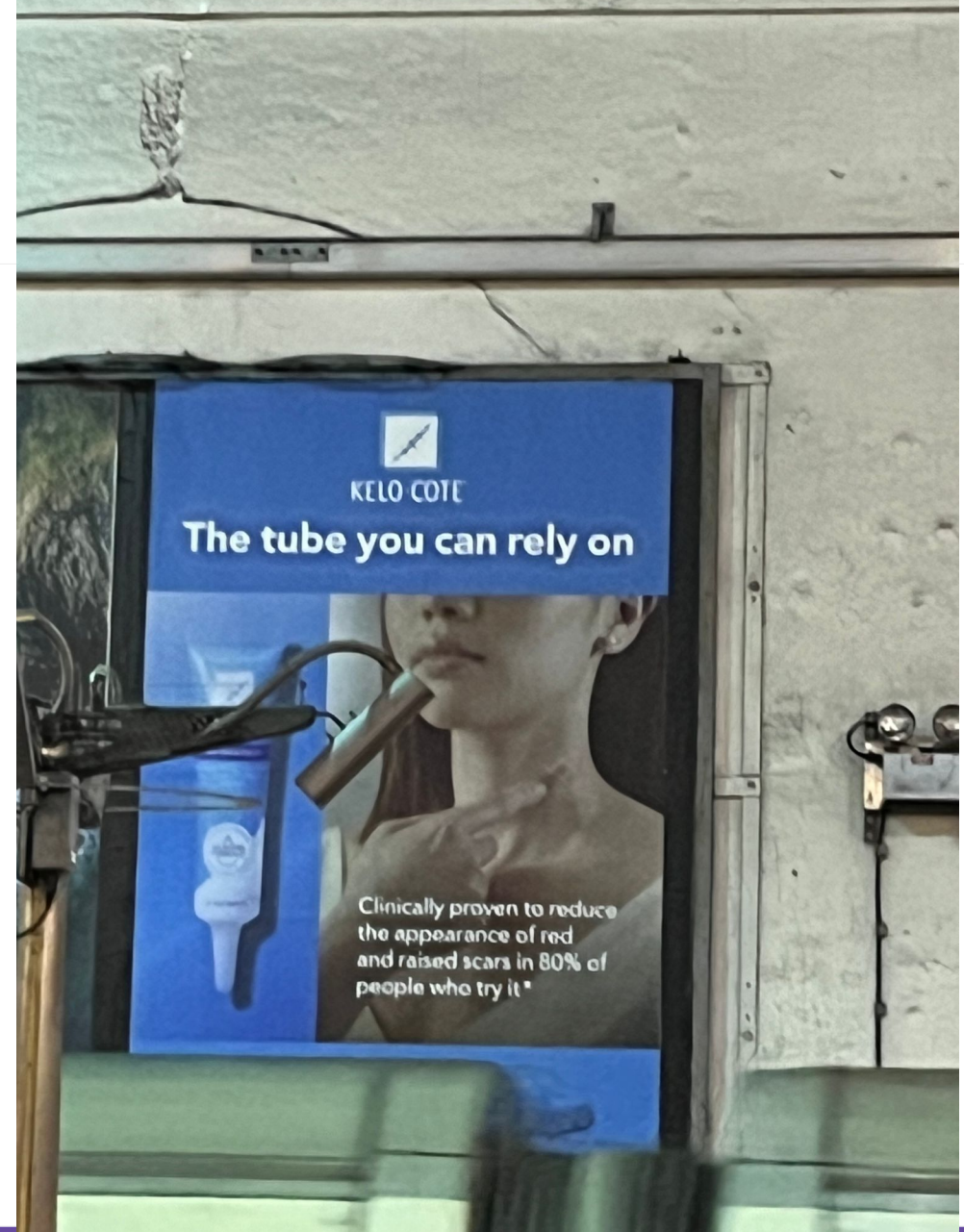
- Cultural
- Contextual
- Based on shared experiences
 - Therefore, must be tailored to the needs and characteristics (cultural, personal) of your audience
- What makes humor “good”?
- What makes humor “bad”?



British humor



UNDERGROUND



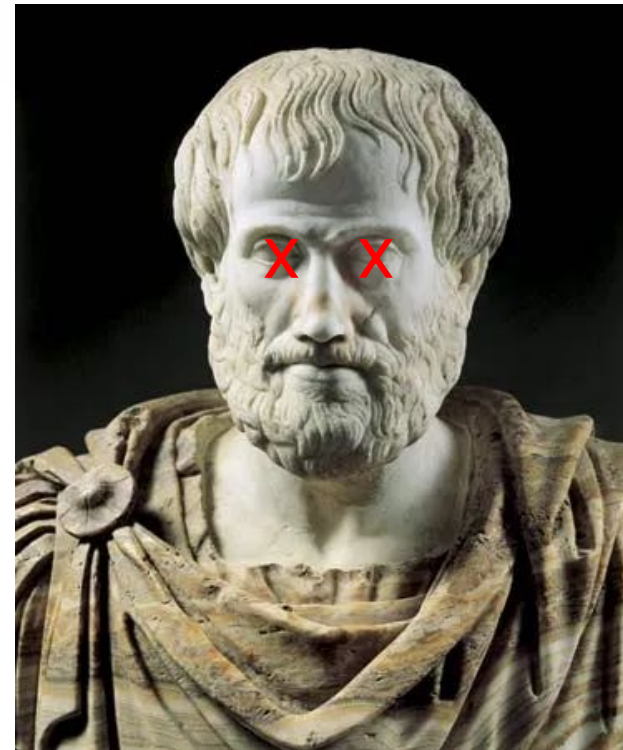
Conclusion

Good humor vs. Bad humor

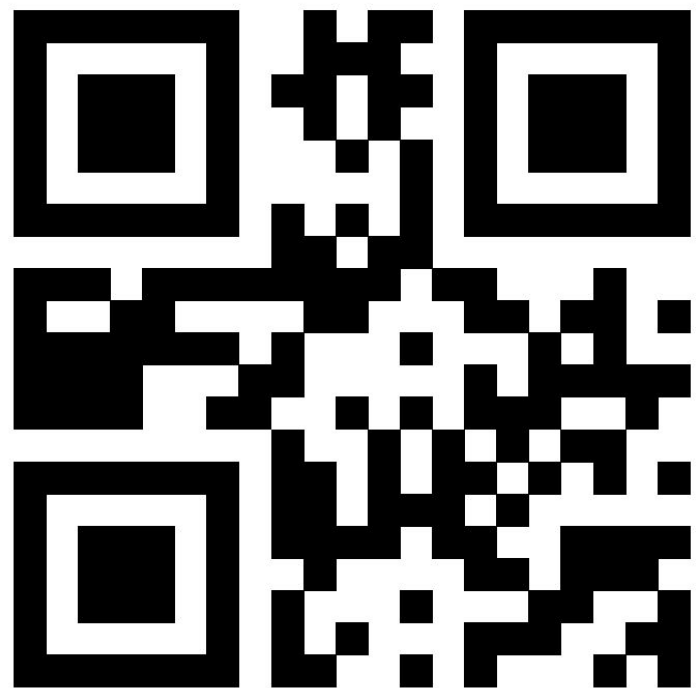
Cultural and individual aspects

Communication model

Underdoing and overdoing humor



Check in for the session!



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Feedback form!

