

**Talking about talking,
over a pint**

TALK the
TALK

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#PINTAU18**

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Finish the Story

Google is changing one of its emoji to be like other platforms, and the emoji is the...

	Apple	Google	Microsoft	Samsung	Facebook	Twitter
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						
2017						
2018						

Finish the Story

A Nigerian man is trying to sue Oxford Dictionary because...

NEWS

Nigerian Sues Oxford University Over Wrong Dictionary Definition

Ogu, counsel representing a claimant, Emmanuel Ofoegbu, urged the court to direct Oxford to ensure that all dictionaries published by them, includes a caveat which states that: "The dictionaries are made available as a reference tool only, and that anyone who relies on definition of words in their dictionary as an alternative to seeking independent legal or financial advice, does so at his own risk".

According to him, in 2005 and 2006, he purchased the Oxford Mini reference Dictionary, and the Oxford English Mini Dictionary respectively, published by the second defendant.

He said that in the dictionaries, the word "Mortgagee" is defined as the Borrower in a Mortgage transaction, while "Mortgagor" is defined as the Lender.

He said that he had relied on this definition and during one of his legal advice to a professional colleague he had boldly stated that a Mortgagee is a borrower while a Mortgagor is a lender as extracted from the authority of the Oxford Dictionaries.

According to him, his professional colleagues then drew his attention to the correct position in many other dictionaries apart from Oxford, which defines the word Mortgagee to be the Lender and Mortgagor to be the borrower.

He said that he was thoroughly embarrassed and has since then suffered loss of professional esteem, as his colleagues had stopped asking for his opinion or advice on any legal issue.

Finish the Story

Apple had to tweak Siri's algorithm because when people asked for a definition of *mother*, Siri would...

NATIONAL

Apple washes Siri's mouth out with soap over vulgar definition of 'mother'



BY DON SWEENEY

dsweeney@sacbee.com



April 29, 2018 08:38 AM

Updated April 30, 2018 07:46 AM



Asking Siri to define "mother" twice prompted a vulgar response, Apple users discovered Saturday.



When users requested an alternate definition to the word, as of Sunday morning Siri responded, "As a noun, it means, short for 'mother---er.' "

Finish the Story

Researchers wanted to find out if grammar-learning ability would taper off with age.

Their massive study of language learners shows that grammar learning becomes more difficult for adults about age...

ABSTRACT

Children learn language more easily than adults, though when and why this ability declines have been obscure for both empirical reasons (underpowered studies) and conceptual reasons (measuring the ultimate attainment of learners who started at different ages cannot by itself reveal changes in underlying learning ability). We address both limitations with a dataset of unprecedented size (669,498 native and non-native English speakers) and a computational model that estimates the trajectory of underlying learning ability by disentangling current age, age at first exposure, and years of experience. This allows us to provide the first direct estimate of how grammar-learning ability changes with age, finding that it is preserved almost to the crux of adulthood (17.4 years old) and then declines steadily. This finding held not only for “difficult” syntactic phenomena but also for “easy” syntactic phenomena that are normally mastered early in acquisition. The results support the existence of a sharply-defined critical period for language acquisition, but the age of offset is much later than previously speculated. The size of the dataset also provides novel insight into several other outstanding questions in language acquisition.

Many people who study language acquisition would argue that any supposed bottleneck is due, not to some critical period of acquisition, but to factors like time of exposure, working memory, and general cognitive decline with age.

Finish the Story

The US Social Security Administration released its list of popular baby names, and found an interesting pattern. Popular baby names tend to...

Rank	Male name	Female name
1	Liam	Emma
2	Noah	Olivia
3	William	Ava
4	James	Isabella
5	Logan	Sophia
6	Benjamin	Mia
7	Mason	Charlotte
8	Elijah	Amelia
9	Oliver	Evelyn
10	Jacob	Abigail

As more vowels come in, consonants drop out: The two boys' names that dropped from the top-10 list this year are consonant-heavy (Michael and Ethan), while one of the new appearances is the 1:1 Oliver. Similarly, the two new girls' names—Amelia and Evelyn—have lots of vowels, while one of those downgraded was Harper.

Michael
[maɪkəl]

Ethan
[iθən]

Quiz Round

1. About how many languages are there in the world?
About 700, about 7,000, or about 70,000?
2. Beginning with the letter *u*, what's the name for the hangy-down thing in the back of your throat, used to make certain sounds?
3. Which one of these words has been borrowed from Malay:
ketchup, mustard, relish, or barbecue?
4. Spell this word: [əklʌəns]
5. What language did Shakespeare write his plays in:
Old English, Middle English, or Modern English?

Quiz Round

6. Here's a tweet. Is this true or false?



7. In the sentence "The cow jumped over the moon," what kind of word is over?
An adverb, a conjunction, or a preposition?

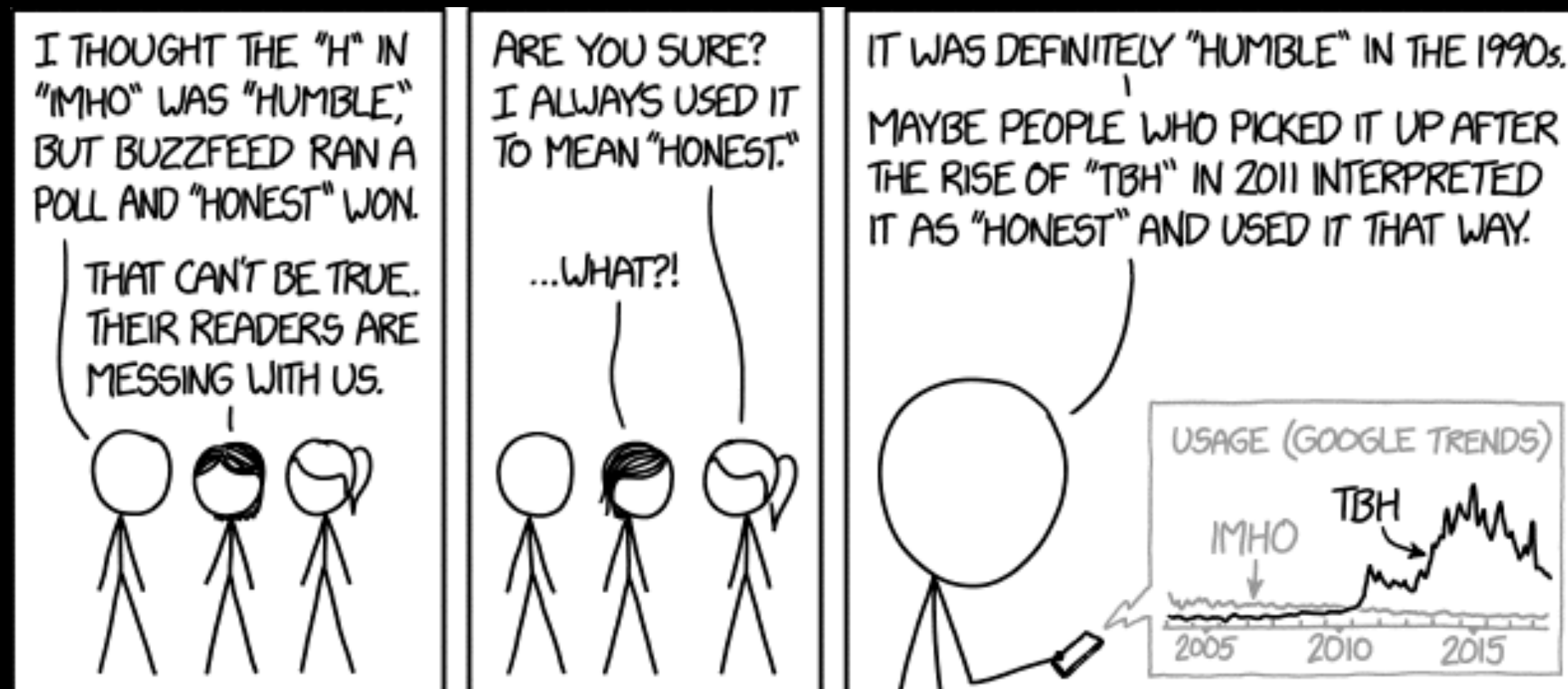
8. What's a more common way of saying this proverb?
All articles that coruscate with resplendence are not truly auriferous.

9. Which artificial language was invented by Ludwik Lazarus Zamenhof around 1887?

10. What's the name of the alphabet you use when you're writing in Russian?

Everyone Is Wrong

What does the H stand for in "IMHO"?




POLL

Help Us Solve This Debate About What "IMHO" Stands For

WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.

Posted on May 2, 2018, at 11:31 p.m.

 **Lauren Yapalater**
BuzzFeed Staff

[f](#) [t](#) [✉](#) [p](#) [t](#) [🔗](#)

HELLO there! Us folks at BuzzFeed are always trying to get to the bottom of serious issues. Today, whilst discussing things like the current political climate, how we can solve the issues facing health care in America, and the science of gravity and black holes, a debate arose when I said to my colleague, "IMHO." She asked me what I'd said and I repeated: IMHO, aka "in my honest opinion."

At this point I was attacked from coworkers to my right and left claiming that it doesn't stand for "in my honest opinion," but actually "in my HUMBLE opinion."

a menu

Everyone Is Wrong

One space or two after a full stop?

Münchenbernsdorf, St. (334 m), 726 ha,
Sa. = W. = G., BerwB. Neustadt Orla, AG.
Weida, BKdo. Weimar; 2264 G.; P, E: Nie-
derpöllnig-M.; StbA., ev. Pff.; Krankenh.,
Wasserv.; StSpf., Gew. = u. LwBf.; Kram-,
Biehmärkte; Schuh-, Teppich-, Zigarren-, Läu-
fer-, Düngemittel-, Jutesbr.; Brau., Brenn.,
Färbn., Sägew., Web., Zgl. — Dazu Hrgv.
Teichhäuser 43; Ml. Teichmühle 5; Gsth.
Waldschlößchen 5 G.

A New Scientific Study Supports Putting Two Spaces After a Period ... and a Punctuation War Ensues

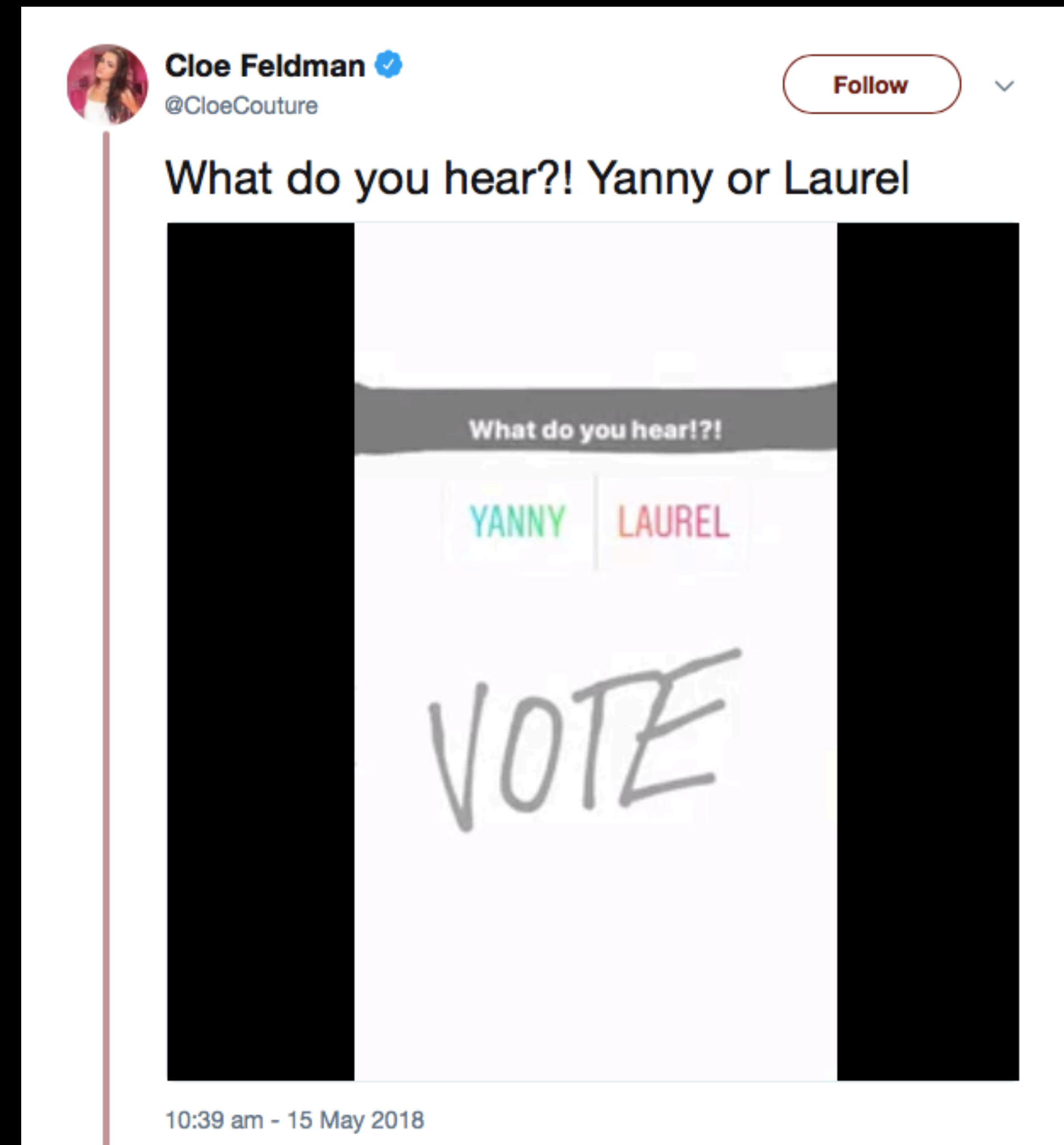
in Writing | May 9th, 2018 [7 Comments](#)



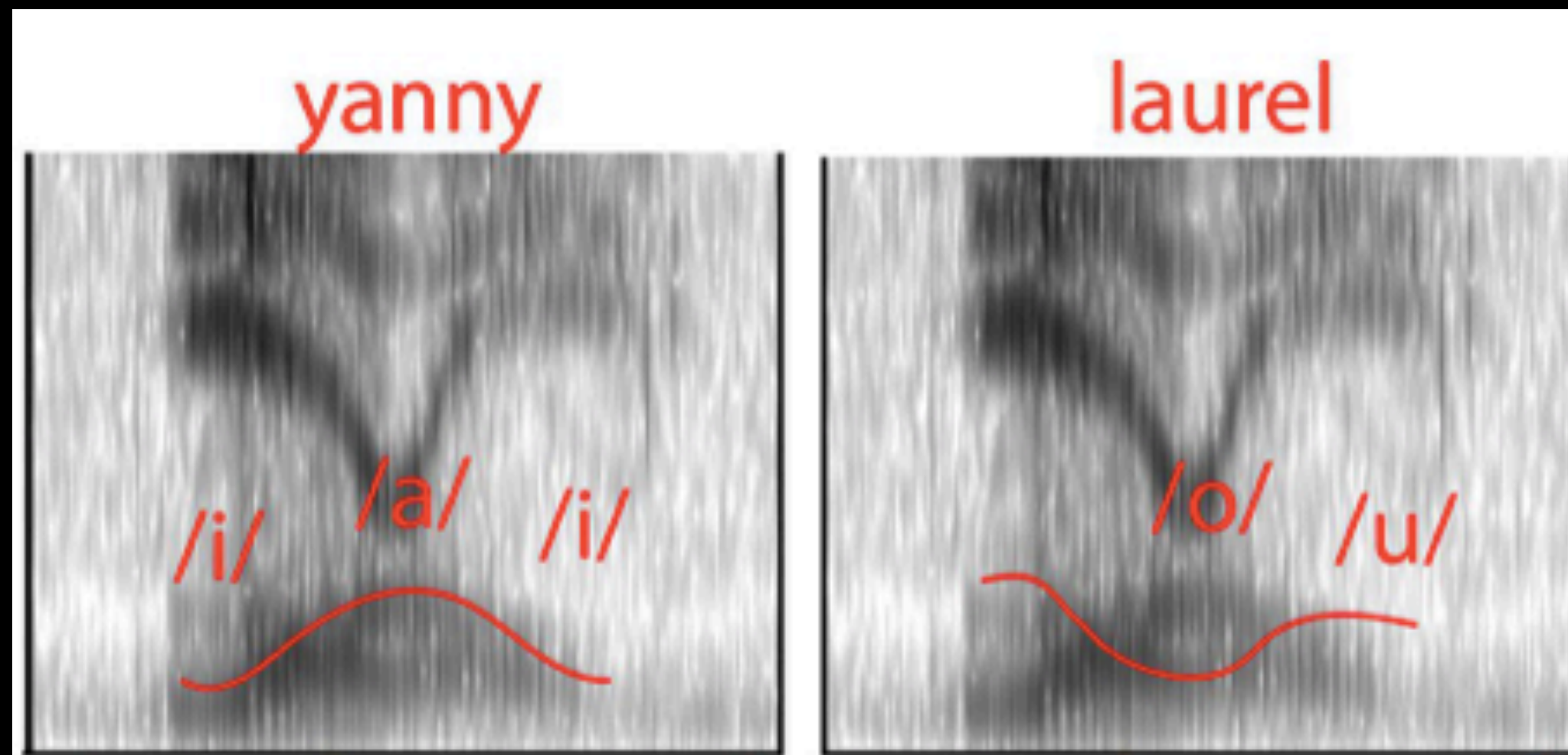
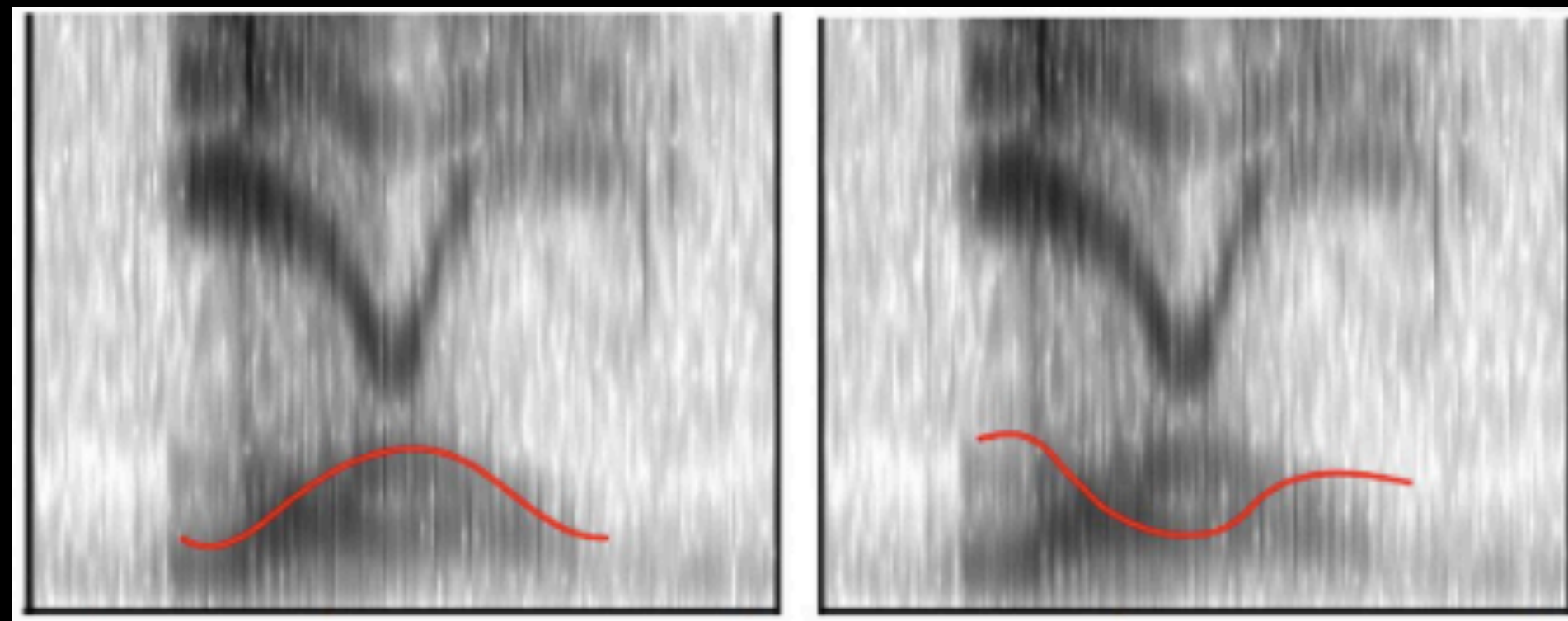
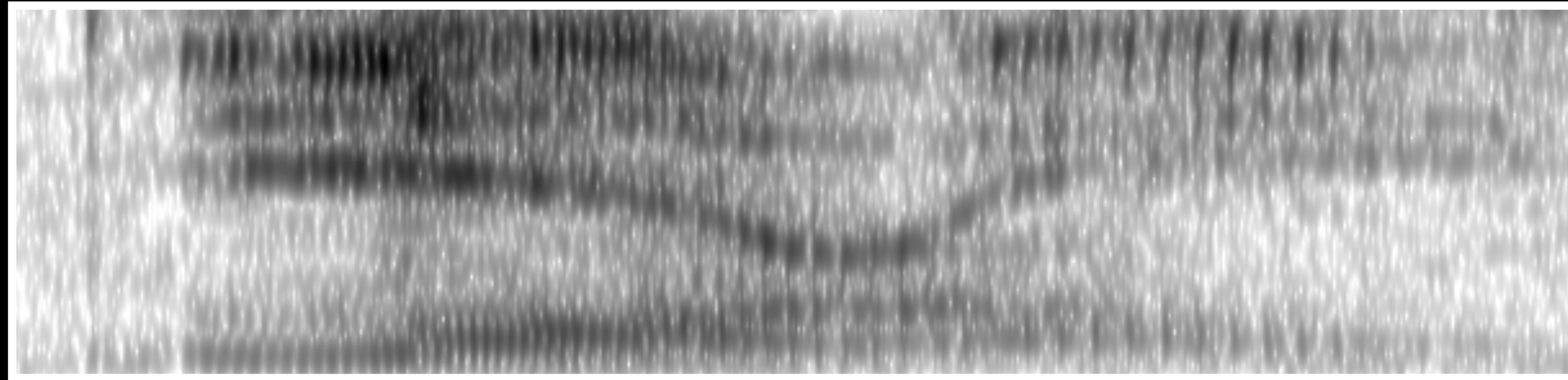
Photo via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Everyone Is Wrong

Yanny or Laurel?



Yanny / Laurel



Everyone Is Wrong

processes

GIF

pronunciation

Words of the Week

gammon



 **Tattooed Mummy**
@tattooed_mummy Follow

Gammon : the bottom piece of a side of bacon, including a hind leg.

Also (recently) slang : Middle aged red-faced white male, usually ranting about Brexit, immigrants and political correctness gone mad. (origin : 2017 BBC)



GIF

7:32 pm - 14 May 2018

Charles Dickens,
Nicholas Nickleby
1838

'Whether I look merely at home, or, stretching my eyes farther, contemplate the boundless prospect of conquest and possession--achieved by British perseverance and British valour--which is outspread before me, I clasp my hands, and turning my eyes to the broad expanse above my head, exclaim, "Thank Heaven, I am a Briton!"

The time had been, when this burst of enthusiasm would have been cheered to the very echo; but now, the deputation received it with chilling coldness. The general impression seemed to be, that as an explanation of Mr Gregsbury's political conduct, it did not enter quite enough into detail; and one gentleman in the rear did not scruple to remark aloud, that, for his purpose, it savoured rather too much of a 'gammon' tendency.

'The meaning of that term--gammon,' said Mr Gregsbury, 'is unknown to me. If it means that I grow a little too fervid, or perhaps even hyperbolic, in extolling my native land, I admit the full justice of the remark. I AM proud of this free and happy country. My form dilates, my eye glistens, my breast heaves, my heart swells, my bosom burns, when I call to mind her greatness and her glory.'

Words of the Week

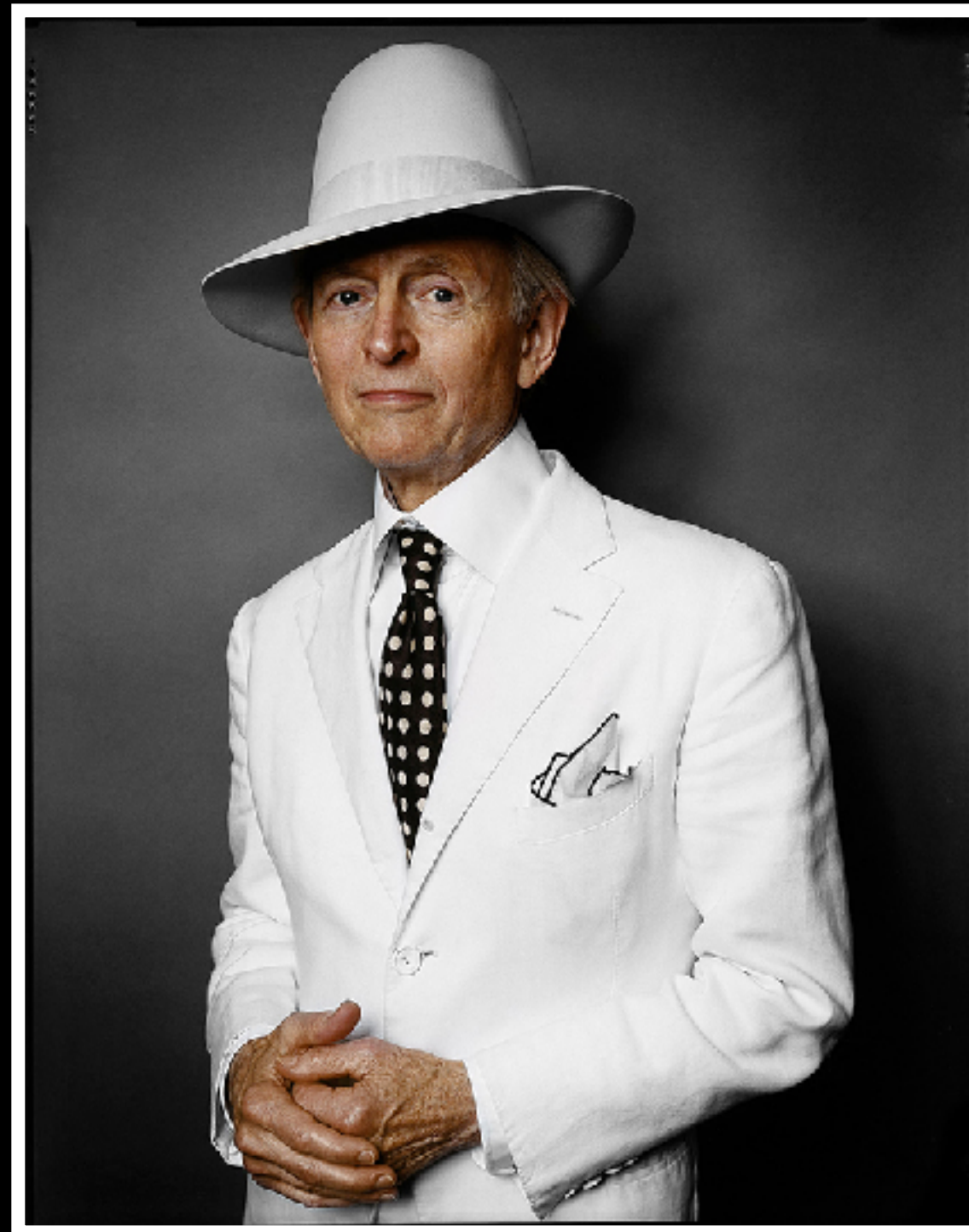
jejune

youthful

cynical

simplistic

Latin *jejunus*:
empty of food,
hungry, meager



I used to go through the dictionary looking for unusual but nontechnical words. At one time, I thought the greatest word was 'jejune' and I would throw it into every piece because something about it appealed to me.

Tom Wolfe

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[danielmidgley.com/
files/tttpos2018.pdf](http://danielmidgley.com/files/tttpos2018.pdf)

Thank you and good night



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