

Currently the Most Annoying Meme: "I know, right?"

"I know, right?"

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=i+know%2C+right%3F>

This phrase has been whittling me down to my last ganglion. As Ken Nordine describes the atheist who publicly humiliates a small town preacher with his 'sparkling wit and his shallow understanding', such is the user of "I know, right". I dare these meme-ridden, jargon-saddled appropriators to restrain themselves.

But in the case of adorning oneself with a plumage of memes, there is only the pretense of wit to camouflage the complete absence of originality or processing. I doubt many of the kids who embrace 'sagging' were deliberately seeking to associate themselves with criminals.

Certain operations would come to a screeching halt should a regulatory agency impose penalties or threats of revoking their language licenses upon committing certain memetic offenses.

Overuse of 'frankly' and 'caveat' will bore into flesh at an alarming rate. Surely, we all know someone who clings desperately to 'at the end of the day' like a hyena gnawing on a picked over carcass.

And describing anything as 'delicious' has gotten completely out of hand, especially as a way of projecting one's appreciation for intellectual pursuits. It makes me feel like I'm listening to a displaced obscene phone caller.

I realize that I am likely far behind the curve in my listing of memes. Those of you lobbing some of this crap over from the 'left coast', just simmer down. Yours will get to us eventually.

One example of how to dress up the crack whore of trite pleasantries with something that makes the vector feel that they are doing their part: must I always stumble through the cumbersome, 'Have a bless-ed day' at the check out or on call from a telemarketer?

Here's a designated meme receptacle in list form:

no worries - more hipster, smugness attempting to sound more sophisticated, worldly, in control, calm and cool, all the things hipsters wish to project. But, certainly not just for hipsters.

I really enjoy checking urban dictionary for these phrases - helps me know I'm not alone - see comment 11:

"In USA, a flippant expression, almost always spoken by people who are insecure, as a way to quickly both end the conversation, and demean the other person by making it seem as though they were worried, when they were not. A top-down mentality, to belittle someone, from people of vast insensitivity. Should be banished immediately."

hot mess - I won't get graphic, but ladies in particular, enough of this, please.

nonetheless - a legitimate expression, but in the hands of the wrong idiot, it becomes a weapon

anywho - It's as though everyone who would otherwise quote Monty Python was disemboweled and then re-stuffed with Jim Carrey.

caveat - Some people just have to spoil everything. Just when my enthusiasm is going, someone lets me know there's a caveat. I can handle disappointment, but did they have to invoke the caveat meme?

having said that - Now, having said that, I don't have an alternative to saying 'caveat' other than maybe 'catch' or 'downside' which are both kind of jargony. Now, having said that, let's stop saying 'having said that'. Not because it's contradictory; rather because it's annoying as hell.

in a timely manner - If I see this phrase one more time, my anus is going to hyper pucker like a black hole and vacuum in everything, perhaps not all at once, but certainly in a timely manner.

but, I digress - While you're at it, why don't you do us all a favor and digress dead

a certain je ne sais quoi, and *quid pro quo* - just because you took French in high school doesn't license you to subject everyone to this

fair enough - middle management loves this one. Typically used when a direct report knows the answer first.

boo-yah - thank God, this seems to have fallen out of vogue, but I'll bet it's lurking somewhere

golden - trust fund hippies love this one

uber (not the app) - put it back in your man purse, roll up a pant leg and courier yourself elsewhere

proverbial - Not that I can think of a better substitute, but it's overused, and typically those who use it wear it like a badge. Combined with the quote marks in the air, we have a complete snap shot. See 'anywho'

snarky - the word itself is almost self-referencing. Apparently a combination of 'snide' + 'remark' = snark, which puts the word somewhere on the same level as 'shart'. I must admit, for a minute there I was almost convinced snark was a real word. I concluded snarkasm, snarkastic and snarkaholic on my own, but turns out I'm not the first.

girls night out / man-cave - these two go great together. The willingness to relegate ourselves to the role poles, maybe this is how codependent couples identify their need to preserve their identities without feeling threatened when they aren't spending time together

endoplasmic reticulum - just kidding

best (insert anything here) ever - see *snarky*. Conspicuous in the *Awesome* movement. Thank you, Lego Movie, for putting this in rapid perspective.

have a great day - especially when used in voice messaging. Some people seem to think this conveys an air of professional courtesy, and I hear it a lot. Just send flowers if you care so much. Have a nice day has been lampooned for decades, so how has have a great day made it this far? By the time I've waited through enough rings to reach a voice message, I don't want to hear long, obligatory instructions about what I'm supposed to do, unless there's another number I can try. But, then, to finish off with 'have a great day'? I'm really surprised at who complies with this convention. I suspect its control freaks who cast the wide safety net of have a great day. I even encountered one person who went above and beyond to say 'make it a great day'. When I hear 'have a great day' in an answering message, if I know the person, I sometimes let them know in my message that I am, in fact, having a great day, and this is the same line of thinking that caused me to leave Facebook, for fear of alienating a lot of people by mocking their projections of home dining choices, curling up on the couch with coffee and a book, or deep lyric quotes.

Bless you - say this to me once, and I'll go along with it. But, say it with each sneeze and I might get claustrophobic and start swinging. Relax, demons will not enter my body if I sneeze and no one is around to say 'Bless you'. If I'm wrong, this is nothing that can't be solved with a phone app and a microchip implanted into our skulls.

Shoot me an email - I had no idea that email was such an action sport.

Gesture Memes

I've opened a can of worms here, and this could be the start of a long list. So, here goes.

The act of snorting when laughing - I realize that most people might regard this phenomenon as an involuntary act or even as parasympathetic, and at first glance it's perhaps endearing and comical. However, I recently encountered one who snorts while laughing with abandon and later spoke of it openly and with pride, justifying it as a sign of their intellect. I have witnessed the same unapologetic snorting before, and I can only conclude that either they truly cannot control their snorting, that their parents might have told them it's a sign of intelligence, OR that snorting while laughing is a learned affectation that they choose to embrace and flaunt to deliberately project eccentricity. I immediately think of the Tappet brothers from Car Talk on NPR, who are both funny and smart snort-laughers. I don't think I've ever heard either of them say 'I know, right', but it's been a while since I listened. Maybe I'm being unfair, but my tendency is to associate it with people who want not only to be perceived as intelligent, but possibly as a chip on the shoulder, as though to say 'I snort when I laugh and I don't care what you think about me' or 'If you really love me, you'll continue to accept me even though I snort when I laugh'. I'm not saying that people can't accidentally snort when laughing, but when it's chronic, I suspect that someone either had a competitive sibling rivalry or that their parents passed it down as a family party trick. I say it's only slightly dignified when it's done on purpose as a character à la Lily Tomlin. Otherwise, it's a lot like being locked in a car on a road trip with someone who has smelly feet. If it's any sign of intellect, I'm raising a red flag on E.Q.

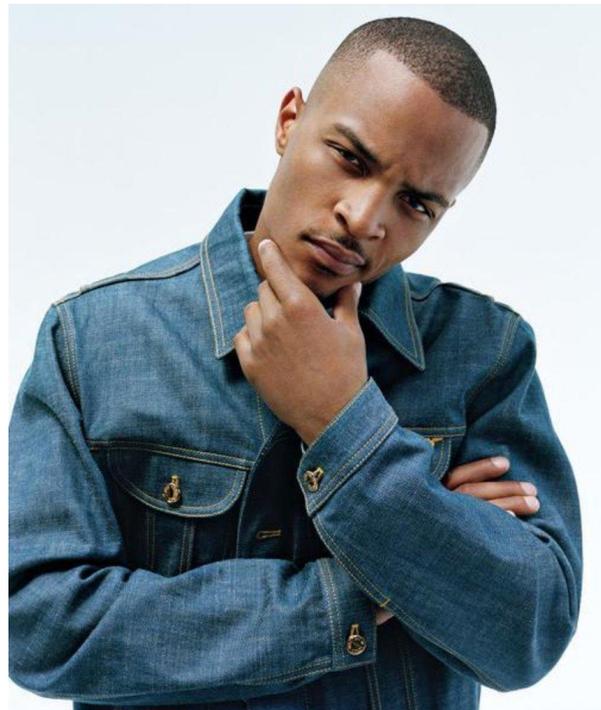
The fist bump – The problem with the fist bump is that it requires reciprocity, and then I look as dumb. Just give me a handshake or count me out. I'll deal with your TB or whatever you're worried about.

The golf swing – What percentage of people who model this motion are genuinely thinking about their form? This has got to be one of the purest forms of posing.

To be honest with you (“To be ahness wichoo”) - This one made a mark on me when a guy delivered my washing machine, and now, to be ahness wichoo, I can't stop using it. I'm including this one under gestures because the expression goes best with the chin pose of Rodin's *The Thinker*. Scroll for examples...



Wussup, muh 'Nilla? To be ahness wichoo, not much these days. Word to yuh mu-thuh.



To be honess wichoo, dissizz not da bess chin pose, but it beats out Nilla's.



Ahhh, yeeeh. Dissuz a tite chin pose, to be honess wit Pooh.



Count on Phil and family to be honest with yew.