

How to stop someone from talking incessantly



INFOGRAPHIC/ VIDEO: Some people love to hear themselves talk so much that, try as you might, you can't get a word in edgewise. One part art of the problem is that you're waiting for them to pass the baton to you: they're simply not going to do it. You don't have to interrupt them; you can use your body language and shut them up with non-verbal cues .



SOURCE: YouTube via Lifehacker

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To eliminate waste, we need to rediscover thrift



VIDEO: There's no such thing as throwing something away — when you toss a used food container, broken toy or old pair of socks into the trash, those things inevitably end up in ever-growing landfills. But we can get smarter about the way we make, and remake, our products. This video shares exciting examples of thrift — the idea of using and reusing what you need so you don't have to purchase anything new — as well as advances in material science, like electronics made of nanocellulose and enzymes that can help make plastic infinitely recyclable.



SOURCE: TED

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How the progress bar on your computer screen keeps you sane



VIDEO: A lot of time spent on the computer involves waiting — for programmes to load, files to save and so on. The progress bar is our constant companion during these periods. We hardly ever give a thought to the progress bar. This delightful video tells you that there is a lot more behind this humble utility. The video traces the evolution of the device and the psychology that lies behind it.



SOURCE: TED

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Here's a list of 1,174 Coursera courses that are completely free



UTILITY: Generally speaking, Coursera courses are free to audit but if you want to access graded assignments or earn a Course Certificate, you will need to pay. There are a few courses that are still completely free. When you sign up for these courses, you would see an option of "Full Course, No Certificate." More than 1,150 Coursera MOOCs (1,174, to be exact) that are still completely free (including the graded assignments, minus the certificate).



SOURCE: Fast Company

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Your speech is packed with misunderstood, unconscious messages: "dysfluencies"



ARTICLE: folk wisdom that ums and uhs betray a speaker as weak, nervous, ignorant, and sloppy, and should be avoided at all costs, even in spontaneous conversation. Many scientists, though, think that our cultural fixation with stamping out what they call "disfluencies" is deeply misguided. Saying um is no character flaw, but an organic feature of speech; far from distracting listeners, there's evidence that it focuses their attention in ways that enhance comprehension.



SOURCE: Nautilus

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Curated and enhanced content, once a week

This is a newsletter of curated content directed at people who are tired of reading nothing but bad and depressing news in the mainstream media. The content in this site will be of interest to:

- People who like to think critically.
- People who like to teach young minds how to think critically.
- People who like to communicate - speaking, writing, engaging in forums - critically assessed information to interested audiences; I would like to offer Richard Saul Wurman's phrase, "Information architect", as a descriptor.

Arjun Rajagopalan



My professional life of four decades was spent as a surgeon, educator and medical administrator. I am now retired from active practice and when I reflect on my life and ask myself what did I do that could be now redirected to a larger audience, three things pop up: thinking, teaching, talking.