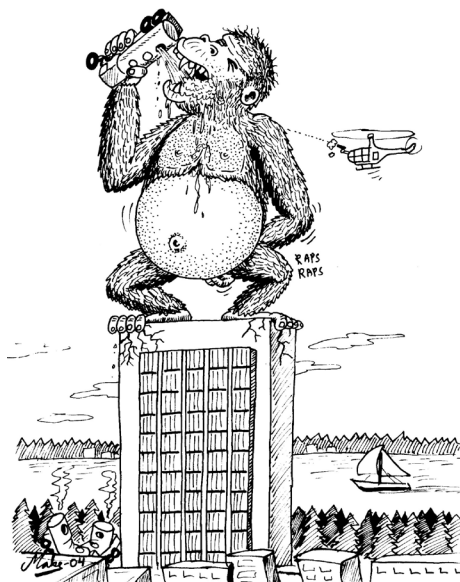




ESCAPE FROM THE MEETING ROOM



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Agile Development and Quest for Fire Shimo Sunttila

10 Greatest Meetings in Movies Tapio Ranta-aho

ESCAPE

from the meeting room

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Meeting Monsters

GO

Did you know that someone has scattered tiny creatures all around? They are called Meeting Monsters, or MeMos for short, and your task is to receive all of them. The list of MeMos is on the next page, also known as your Inbox.

To receive MeMos, browse this magazine randomly. Stop when you see a MeMo and try to receive it either in the easy or difficult way. When you receive a MeMo for the first time, colour the corresponding picture in your Inbox. You can also collect points: you get 10 points when you receive a MeMo for the first time, and after that 1 point for each copy of the same MeMo. If a Memo is deleted, you get no points. *Gotta receive 'em all!*

EASY VERSION

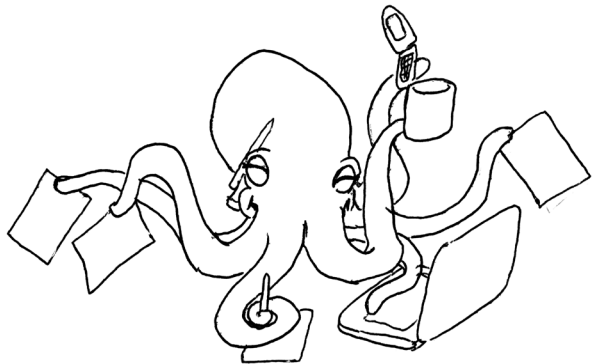
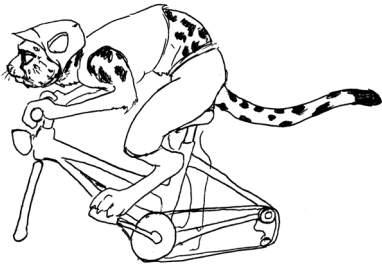
You need a coin or a similar binary means of casting lots. When you find a MeMo, throw the coin.

- Heads: Congratulations, you received a MeMo!
- Tails: Oh no, the MeMo was deleted!

DIFFICULT VERSION

You need a six-sided dice or a similar means of generating random numbers from 1 to 6. When you see a MeMo, throw the dice.

- 1 and 2: Congratulations, you received a MeMo!
- 3, 4 and 5: the MeMo was not received yet, throw the dice again.
- 6: Oh no, the MeMo was deleted!



AVOIDING MEETINGS

It's elementary, dear Reader: the best way to escape from a meeting is not to attend it at all. Here are some excuses you can use in case your calendar is not already fully booked with meetings -- or "meetings".

- I have a more important meeting in Rivendell / moon of Yavin.
- "I'll have to set out to take the ring..." - "May I presume that you are getting married?" - "Yes, you may."
- The voices say "no".
- It's leap year so there is no Tuesday/Thursday next week.
- Unfortunately I cannot make it, I have an appointment to have an implant placed in my middle breast on Sirius.
- It's my mother-in-law's due date (and the father needs to be there, doesn't he?).
- I told the taxi driver to go to Pittsburgh and he heard "Barcelona".

ADD YOUR OWN EX(USES):

BUSINESS AS USUAL AT THE EXPERIMENTAL NEUROLOGY WARD: MEMORY CLINIC

Dr. Haartman, head of the Department of Neurology, opens the weekly meeting.

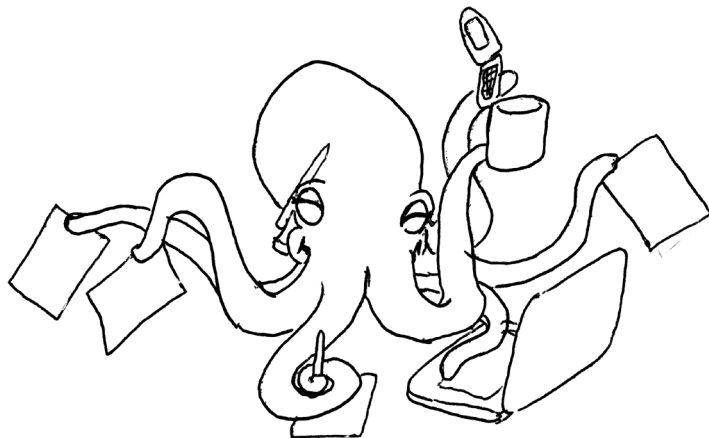
"Ada, is there progress with patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases?"

"Enhancing brain activity with electrical stimulation provides good results. We have increased the doses and...."

"Sorry to interrupt, but we need help", said the head nurse rushing in.

"What's happening?"

"Eric, our most demented patient, just won nurse Ella in chess five times in a row. She took it quite bad and jumped from the window. It's just a fifteen feet drop, but she sprained her ankle. We need a substitute nurse. The patients now play Trivial Pursuit."



SORRY I AM LATE...

Congratulations - or oh no! You have almost made it to a meeting but you are slightly late. Use these excuses to steal some time for yourself from the beginning of the meeting:

- A border collie ate my Aston Martin.
- Zombies surrounded my house and I had to find the hidden fuel container for my flame thrower.
- An alien invasion took over my house and I was looking for the fuel container for my flame thrower.
- My TARDIS was wrongly configured.
- Tomorrow this meeting began one hour later and I realised too late that I was on a wrong timeline.
- I used the Mayan calendar (that ended five years ago - “And this is not the first meeting I missed, uh-huh.”)
- Surprisingly enough, I managed to summon Cthulhu.
- I folded an origami that opened the doorway to hell. (“I won’t show you how.”)
- The escalator suddenly stopped so I was not able to move.
- My household equipment rebelled and I had to fight the coffee machine.
- I thought my dobbelgänger was coming to this meeting.
- My clone degenerated and I had to come myself.
- I was driving in my car when I suddenly rushed from the forest to the front of my car and I ran over myself. I panicked, ran into the woods and was hit by my own car.
- I went to a fortune teller yesterday and she said I would die before this meeting. (Remember to look relieved because the fortune did not come true.)
- My shoes were nailed to the floor.

ADVENTURES OF THE REMOTE CONTROL PERSON

- I accidentally pointed at myself when I pressed *Pause*.
- I went to the bathroom and though I was supposed to press *Eject*, I pressed *Rewind*.
- I pressed *Fast Forward* and ran past the meeting.

BUSINESS AS USUAL AT THE EXPERIMENTAL NEUROLOGY WARD: WEIGHT CONTROL GROUP

Dr. Haartman, head of the Department of Neurology, opens the weekly meeting.

"So, Ada, is the problem at the memory clinic solved?"

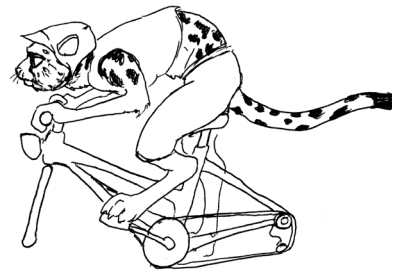
"Kind of solved. All the patients got jobs as visiting lecturers in the local university. Now there's a problem in the weight control group."

"Isn't the gastrointestinal tract pacemaker controlling the hunger signals and thus reducing the weight?"

"No, it is enhancing them. The weight of all the members in the group has increased by ten percent."

"This is a complete disaster!"

"Well, not complete. The International Sumo Federation just ordered two hundred gastrointestinal tract pacemakers from us."



OLD MEETING JUNGLE SAYINGS

In Soviet Russia the meeting room finds you.

In a meeting room no one can hear you scream.

There is always a bigger meeting room.

SCIFISTIC MEETING WORK-OUT

Long meetings can be tiring and numbing, but a small work-out will wake you up. Spend a moment by trying out these scifistic moves - it's worth it!

Repeat the following from 5 to 15 times:

- Stretch out your fingers to a Vulcan greeting.
- Grab your elbow with the Vulcan stun (be careful!) and rub it lightly. Repeat on the other shoulder.
- Crunch your neck like the Terminator.
- Hypnotically make a gesture like Mandrake the Magician or gesture like a Jedi with both hands.
- Wave a (imaginary) light saber. Repeat with the other hand.
- Stand up, stretch your hands forward and wobble like a zombie from one foot to another.
- Walk around the table mechanically twitching like Robocop.
- Make small dashes and imagine that you are sword-fighting a group of attacking Orcs.
- Rock back and forth and finally roll over the table like the crew from the USS Enterprise when it is hit by a plasma torpedo.



BUSINESS AS USUAL AT THE EXPERIMENTAL NEUROLOGY WARD: SPINAL CORD INJURY PATIENTS

Dr. Haartman, head of the Department of Neurology, opens the weekly meeting.

"So, Ada, what's happening with the weight control group?"

"Its members were hired as personal trainers by the International Sumo Federation. But there is progress with the spinal cord injury patients! We have repaired their nervous systems. Now we use electrical stimulation to rapidly rebuild their muscles. We have increased the doses and...."

"Sorry to interrupt", said the head nurse rushing in. "The spinal cord injury patients just smashed the hospital wall and ran away."

"They were our last patients", Dr. Haartman said. "We are out of business."

OLD MEETING JUNGLE SAYINGS

Who lives by the Personnel Handbook, dies by the Personnel Handbook.

Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings right after lunch.



CATCH THE PHRASE!

RULES

Use these quotes in a conversation. You get the listed amount of points for each quote you are able to use smoothly without revealing that it is a quote. In addition, you may get some extra points or lose points. If you play this game with your colleague(s), the person with the most points by the end of the meeting wins. *May the odds be ever in your favour!*

EXTRA POINTS AND MINUSES

- An outsider smiles after recognizing the quote: +1 point
- An outsider replies appropriately: +3 points
- An outsider finds out you are playing a game: -15 points

EASY: 1 POINT

- *I am the Doctor.*
- *I'm a doctor, not an engineer.* +3, if you are an engineer
- *You have failed me for the last time.*
- *Try not. Do... or do not. There is no try.*
- *I see dead people.*
- *Purple or green?*
- *Winter is coming.*
- *So say we all.*
- *Come with me if you want to live.*
- *He's dead, Jim.* +1, if no one is called Jim.
- *I'm sorry, Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that.* +1, if no one is called Dave. +5, if your name is Hal and you say this to Dave.



MEDIUM HARD: 3 POINTS

- *Quoth the Raven: "Nevermore."*
- *Release the Kraken!*
- *Search your feelings. You will know it to be true.*
- *You have failed this city.*
- *We have created amazing machines ... and used them to destroy our fellow men.*
- *Once you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.*

HARD: 5 POINTS



- *Soylent Green is people.*
- *No. I am your father!*
- *All irregularities will be handled by the forces controlling each dimension.*
- *Follow the white rabbit! +1, if you hum White Rabbit by Jefferson Airplane at the same time. +5, if your name is Alice.*
- *Children of the night, what beautiful music they make.*

REALLY HARD: 10 POINTS

- *Everyone around me dies, Mr. Morden, except those who most deserve it. +5 if someone is called Mr. Morden.*
- *Of, in that wickless chalet all begorn, Where whilom sougled the mossy snappertor And you were wont to bong.*
- *Why don't you smegging well smeg off, you annoying little smeggy smegging smegger!*
- *Klaatu barada nikto.*
- *Koona t'chuta Solo?*

READY PLAYER ONE: MARK YOUR SCORE HERE



Dr. Strangelove (1964)

President Merkin Muffley: Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room.

X-Paroni (Finland, 1967)

Paroni Wilhelm von Tanderi: Just niin. Olen saanut iskun päähän, tullut vähän omittuiseksi.

Star Wars (1977)

Admiral Motti: Don't try to frighten us with your sorcerer's ways, Lord Vader. Your sad devotion to that ancient Jedi religion has not helped you conjure up the stolen data tapes, or given you enough clairvoyance to find the rebels' hidden fortress...

Darth Vader: I find your lack of faith disturbing.

Being There (1979)

President "Bobby": Mr. Gardner, do you agree with Ben, or do you think that we can stimulate growth through temporary incentives?

Chance the Gardener: As long as the roots are not severed, all is well. And all will be well in the garden.

President "Bobby": In the garden.

Chance the Gardener: Yes. In the garden, growth has its seasons. First comes spring and summer, but then we have fall and winter. And then we get spring and summer again.

President "Bobby": Spring and summer?

Benjamin Rand: I think what our insightful young friend is saying is that we welcome the inevitable seasons of nature, but we're upset by the seasons of our economy.

Chance the Gardener: Yes! There will be growth in the spring!

President "Bobby": Hm. Well, Mr. Gardner, I must admit that is one of the most refreshing and optimistic statements I've heard in a very, very long time. I admire your good, solid sense. That's precisely what we lack on Capitol Hill.

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983)

Exec #1: Item six on the agenda: "The Meaning of Life" Now uh, Harry, you've had

some thoughts on this.

Exec #2: Yeah, I've had a team working on this over the past few weeks, and what we've come up with can be reduced to two fundamental concepts. One: People aren't wearing enough hats. Two: Matter is energy. In the universe there are many energy fields which we cannot normally perceive. Some energies have a spiritual source which act upon a person's soul. However, this "soul" does not exist ab initio as orthodox Christianity teaches; it has to be brought into existence by a process of guided self-observation. However, this is rarely achieved owing to man's unique ability to be distracted from spiritual matters by everyday trivia.

Exec #3: What was that about hats again?

Exec #2: Oh, Uh... people aren't wearing enough.

The secret of my success (1987)

Vera Prescott: Ah, gentleman just in time. Mr Prescott and his aid disrupted a very important meeting, would you please escort them out of this building?

Dark Knight Rises (2012)

Daggett: You know, I'd like to point out that we have a non-board member here. This is highly irregular, even if his family name is above the door.

Fox: I'm afraid he has a point, Mr. Wayne.

Daggett: So back to business.

Want more? The List of the 10 Greatest →
Meetings in Movies continues on page 24.

MEETING VOODOO

Is the meeting boring? Isn't the chairperson making any progress? Are the others' opinions dull and irrelevant? Cheer up your meeting with a virtual voodoo doll!

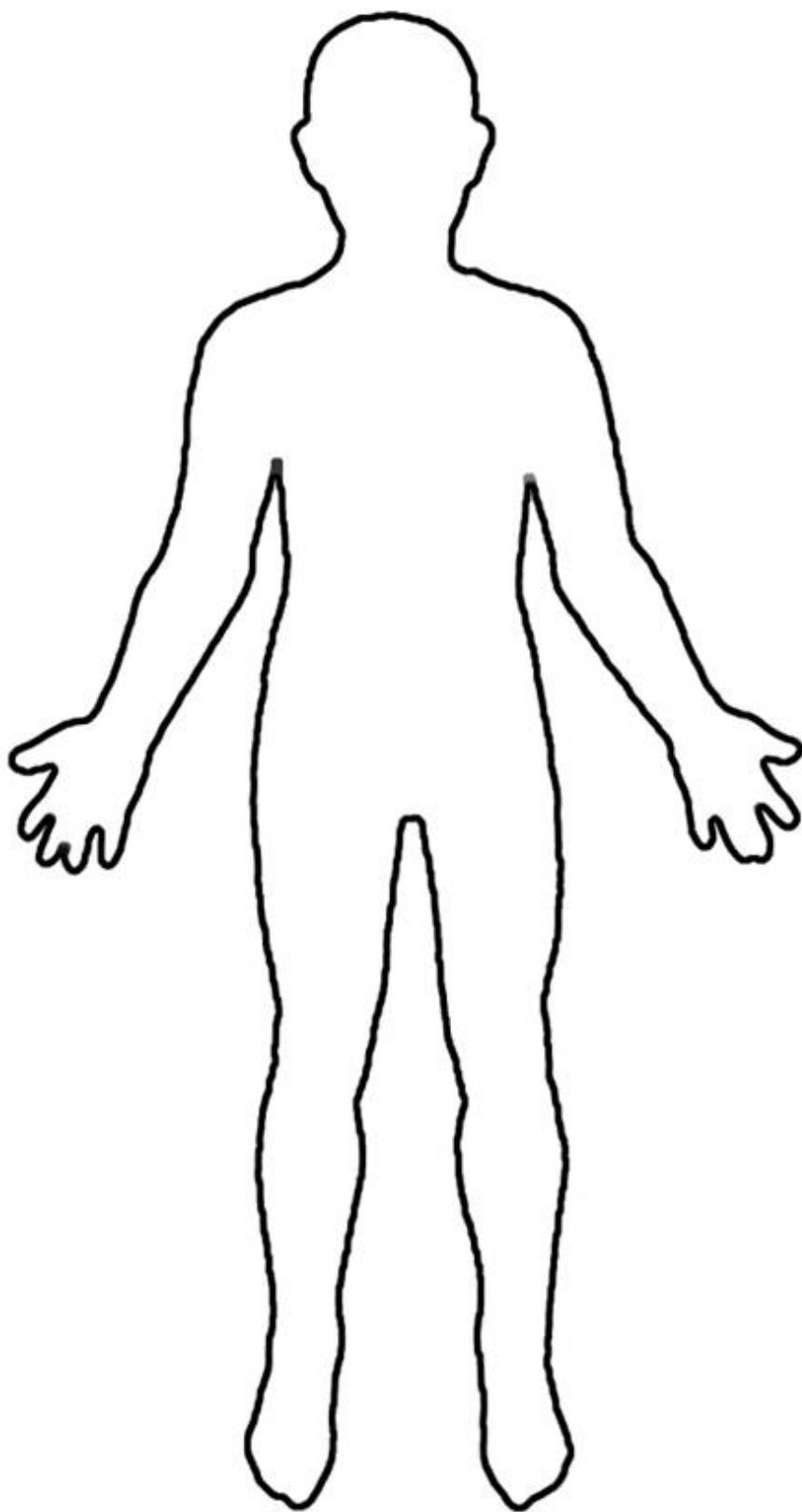
Use a paper clip (available in the nearest office supply closet) to attach something from a boring person, for example a hair, to the figure on the next page. Poke the figure with a pen every time that person makes a silly suggestion or a ridiculous remark.

Try the following:

- **Grease mark on the eye glasses / something in the eye:** poke either eye.
- **Sneeze:** poke the nose.
- **Stutter:** poke the mouth.
- **Misheard word/sentence:** poke either ear.
- **Coffee spills:** poke the hand that carries the coffee cup.
- **Stains in the notes/typos:** poke the hand that writes/types.
- **Numb or cramping leg:** poke either leg, (Note: do not tell about scifistic work-out!)

WRITE DOWN YOUR EXPERIMENTS:





SHOW ME YOUR ID!

Are you supposed to attend a meeting but forgot your ID card - or do you want to crash a meeting to which you were not invited? Print a new ID card here!

UMBRELLA CORPORATION
ALICE

APERTURE
LABORATORIES

Cave Johnson
GLaDOS v1.07a

ACCESS ALL
AREAS

* **VIP** *

One does simply walk into Mordor

REALISTIC ADVENTURE TALES



The glimmering teenage vampire boy Eetu moved to a new town. Because he had superpowers, he thought the ordinary teenagers were boring and did not even try to fit in. If a curious person asked, he said he was homeschooled. Meanwhile, the distressed teenage girl Nella thought that Eetu just plays with this PlayStation in the dark all day and did not notice him at all. So Nella lived her life as a regular girl, married a plumber and had three beautiful children.

A terrified voice echoed in the distance: little Tim had fallen into a well and cried for help. Lassie the Dog raised her ears and smelled the air. Now a man's best friend and loyal companion was needed! But my, oh my, uncle Jack next door was grilling tasty sausages. Lassie trotted to the grill and sat down waiting for a treat. So, little Tim remained sobbing in the well and Lassie decided to take a nap after a delicious meal.



“Override! Override!”

Jack hit the keyboard of the control panel furiously, but in vain. The nifty programmer had followed the specifications, and the operating system of the space station did not include the possibility to override the locking of the door by typing “Override”. Poisonous gas filled the room and Jack fell unconscious onto the floor next to the alien.



A long long time ago in a galaxy far far away nothing happened because Earth is the only planet with sentient life.

HIGHER MEETING MATHEMATICS

PROBLEM 1

The temperature of the meeting room is $22,8^{\circ}\text{C}$. Your coffee cools by 2°C per minute. How long can the meeting last before the temperature of your coffee reaches absolute zero $-273,15^{\circ}\text{C}$?

PROBLEM 2

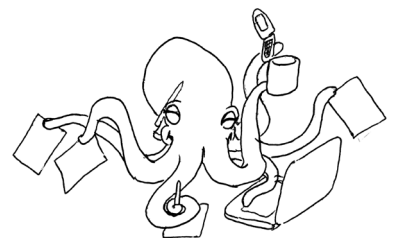
There is only one donut left but everyone wants some more. The first person does not want to appear greedy and take the whole donut, but instead cuts it in half and takes only one half. The next participant cuts the remaining half in half again. The mass of the donut is 152 g. How many people eventually get their share of the donut, and does the inevitable fission reaction create more energy than the hot coffee served with the donut?

PROBLEM 3

Consider that t_0 is the time the meeting was supposed to take and t is the time it has, as perceived by you, in fact taken. Use the time dilation formula to define how close to the speed of light you are moving.

OLD MEETING JUNGLE SAYINGS

The Millenium Falcon makes the Kessel Run faster than the information meeting about the company mission ends.



MEETING SUDOKU

Quick Binary Sudoku Puzzles

1	

Easy

	0

Moderate

Difficult

Super Difficult Natural Science Sudoku

φ	π			Ω				
G			λ	K	φ			
	K	∞					G	
∞				G				π
c			∞		π			λ
Ω				$\sqrt{2}$				G
	G					$\sqrt{2}$	∞	
			c	λ	K			φ
				∞			Ω	K

AGILE DEVELOPMENT

“Threat from Space?” project manager suggested.

“No”, second-in-command replied. “It shall be called Death Star.”

“It’s too small for that name. Killer Moon?”

“Death Star.”

“That’s a stupid...”

Project manager died gasping for air.

“I have an idea for a slogan”, marketing manager said. “Death Star will rock your world.”

“No slogan.”

“We need a slogan for marketing! How about this: Twinkle, twinkle, Death Star...”

Marketing manager died gasping for air.

“Anything else?” second-in-command asked.

“We really should add magnetic shields”, hardware manager said.

“Delivery time from Sienar Systems is...”

“No time for that! We have a deadline to catch!”



QUEST FOR FIRE

The chairman hits a rock with a mammoth's bone and demands silence.

"I thank the Spark Manager from the Fire Development Project for his report. Any comments?"

Ooggah the Naysayer waves his hand frantically.

"How can you ensure that this so called fire is safe? What if it breaks free and burns the whole world?"

What a Homo Neanderthalensis! Last week Nibiru, now this. I'd like to smash his head with a club, but that wouldn't be very democratic.

Suddenly a saber-toothed tiger attacks and interrupts the meeting.

"Let's continue in the afternoon", chairman yells while climbing to a tree.



OLD MEETING JUNGLE SAYINGS

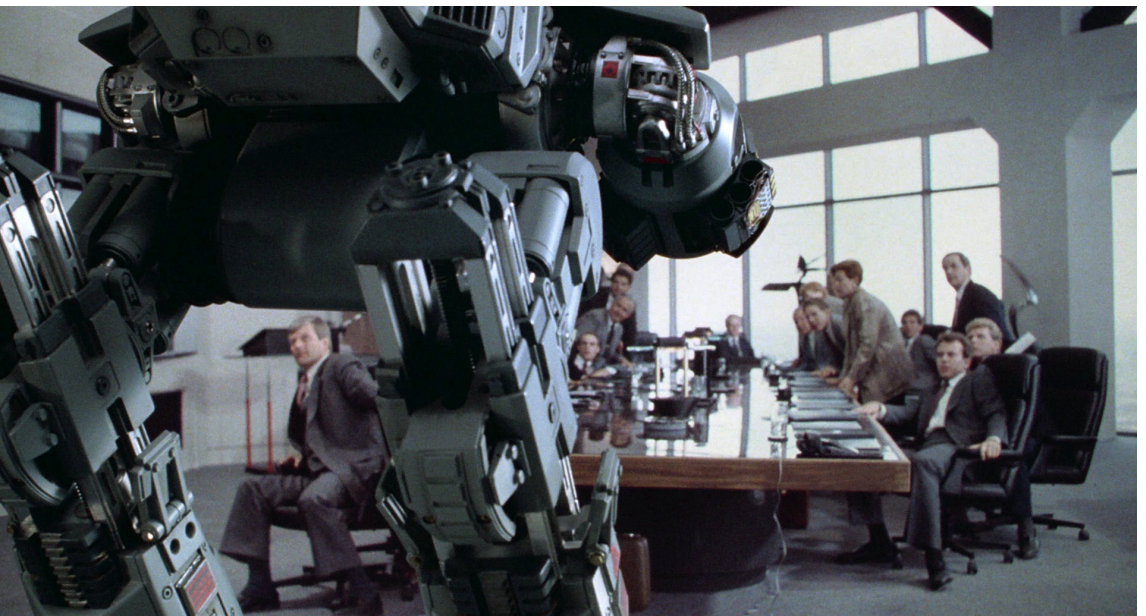
A meeting without donuts is like Schrödinger's Cat without a box.

I find your lack of meeting donuts disturbing.



UNTou(HABLES (1987)

Al Capone: "A man becomes preeminent, he's expected to have enthusiasms. Enthusiasms... What are mine? What draws my admiration? What is that which gives me joy? Baseball!"



ROBo(OP (1987)

ED-209: "Please put down your weapon. You have twenty seconds to comply."

Dick Jones: "I think you'd better do what he says, Mr. Kinney."

[Mr. Kinney drops the pistol on the floor. ED-209 advances, growling]

ED-209: "You now have fifteen seconds to comply."



THE HUDSUCKER PROXY (1994)

Board Member 8: "Well as you know, Hud left no will and had no family; the company bylaws are quite clear in that event. His entire portfolio will be converted into common stock and be sold over the counter as of the first of the fiscal year following his demise."

Sidney J. Mussburger: "Do you mean to say any slob in a smelly tee-shirt will be able to buy Hudsucker stock?"

Board Member 3: "My God, you're animals. How can you discuss his stock when the man has just leapt 45 floors?"

Board Member 6: "44."

Board Member 7: "Not counting the mezzanine."

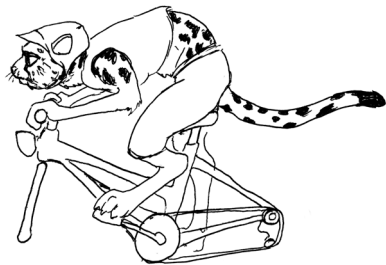


ANY QUESTIONS?

Congratulations! You have almost made it out from the meeting, but the chairperson still looks around and utters the words, “Does anyone have any questions?” Before the persons next to you clear their throat and start talking, it’s time to say...

OF COURSE!

- What is the current state of Schrödinger Cat?
- Furthermore, must Carthage be destroyed?
- What is the current status of the Death Star construction plan?
- How is our company prepared for a Borg invasion?
- What is the strategy in case the Milky Way and Andromeda collide?
- Does the cosmic inflation have an effect on the cost structure/pay rises in our company?
- Is the ectoplasm mapping done? What were the results? *Who ya gonna call?*
- Have you measured the geometry of the office building? How does the non-Euclidean geometry affect the ergonomics of the office?
- Will the secretary of the meeting send the minutes by mail or e-mail or is it shared by melting our minds?



Solution to the Super Difficult Sudoku

φ	π	c	G	Ω	∞	K	λ	$\sqrt{2}$
G	Ω	$\sqrt{2}$	λ	K	φ	π	c	∞
λ	K	∞	π	c	$\sqrt{2}$	φ	G	Ω
∞	φ	K	Ω	G	λ	c	$\sqrt{2}$	π
c	$\sqrt{2}$	G	∞	φ	π	Ω	K	λ
Ω	λ	π	K	$\sqrt{2}$	c	∞	φ	G
K	G	λ	φ	π	Ω	$\sqrt{2}$	∞	c
$\sqrt{2}$	∞	Ω	c	λ	K	G	π	φ
π	c	φ	$\sqrt{2}$	∞	G	λ	Ω	K

A NEW BESTSELLING EPIC
FROM THE MAKERS OF
"ESCAPE FROM THE MEETING ROOM"

Getting there was easy, but getting back again was difficult. On our way we found dreamlike wonders, unimaginable treasures, life-threatening danger and angry seagulls.

We found a port of call, home away from home.

A self-contained world 715 square kilometers large, located in neutral territory.

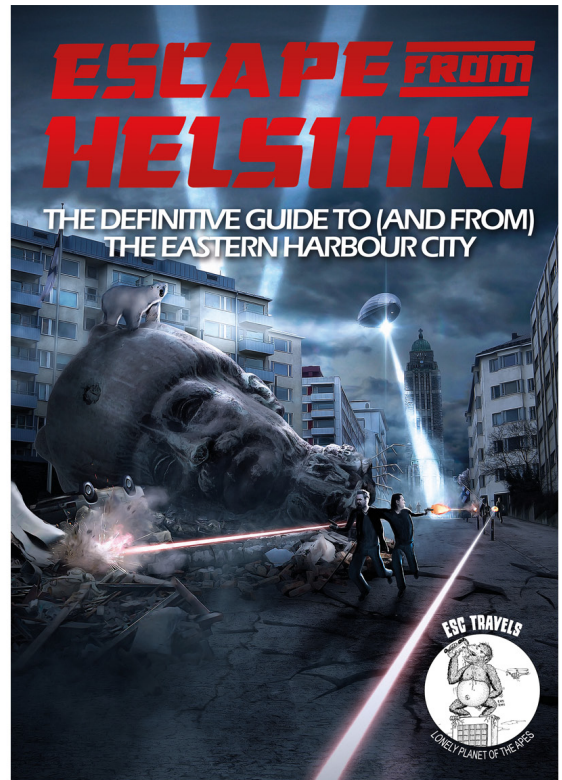
A place of commerce and diplomacy for a half of a million humans, aliens and polar bears.

A shining beacon at the Baltic sea shore, all alone in the night.

The year was 2017.

The name of the place was Helsinki.

GET IT NOW FROM ESC-APE.NET



Welcome to the future of meetings!

MEETING ROBOT

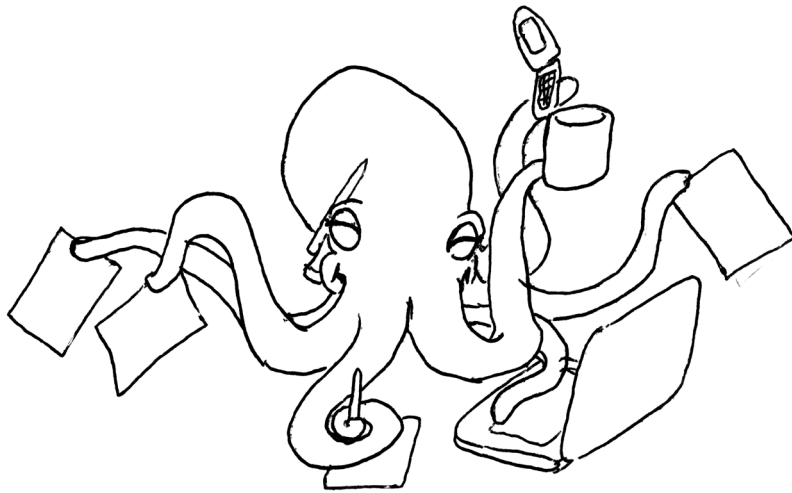
No need to buy expensive coffee and donuts for the meeting!

By robotizing meetings you can save up to 80 % in personnel costs!

Nuclear battery powered meeting robots can hold a meeting that lasts for 3500 years!

Why wait? Contact our sales now and order a free demonstration!

Rossumovi Univerzální Roboti Ltd.



What to do after all the donuts have been eaten, the coffee is cold and the meeting goes on and on like the Groundhog Day? It's time to take out this guide!

Escape from Meeting Room helps you to remain sane in the final frontier that are meetings by providing you with meaningful and meaningless things to do. If someone notices the fun pastimes, turn to the centerfold and pretend you were taking notes all the time. Receive MeMos, find all the excuses you need, and the means of escaping from the meeting in case of an emergency.

"One reason why Rome was not built in a day was that we did not have this wonderful guide in the senate meetings."

- Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, Emperor

"Listen to these things! These are important things! All right stop, collaborate and listen!"

- Stig van Winkle, project manager

"You just could not stand these papal conclaves without wine and this guide."

- Benedictus XIII, Avignon Line Antipope

"This is how we roll!"

- Keijo Osmonder, Director of the Board of Directors

"Plata o Plomo?"

- Jesus Rodriguez Diaz, Chief Financial Officer of the Helsinki-Tallinn Tunnel Project

Let's be careful out there!