brighton SEO. April



Neuroscience of Search

Giulia Panozzo Neuroscientive

@SequinsNsearch
slideshare.net/GiuliaPanozzo1

My Journey



 BSc in Psychobiology
 MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience & Clinical Neuropsychology
 Research on attentional, social and motor processes

...and ended up in SEO

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Today we'll talk about...



Capturing the attention



Cognitive **Biases**



Heuristics in Decision Making



Social Proof



The role of emotions

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WHAT IS NEUROSCIENCE?

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The study of the **brain** and the **nervous system**

Cognitive neuroscience



Behavioral neuroscience



Neurophysiology



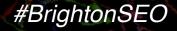
And many more...

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WHY **Set Contract Set Contract**

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1. To put the user back in focus

Optimizing 'for Google' VS Optimizing for the user



...

Replying to @blairmacgregor and @JohnMu

As said before when asked about AI, content created primarily for search engine rankings, however it is done, is against our guidance. If content is helpful & created for people first, that's not an issue.

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Optimizing 'for Google' VS Optimizing for the user



#BriahtonSEO

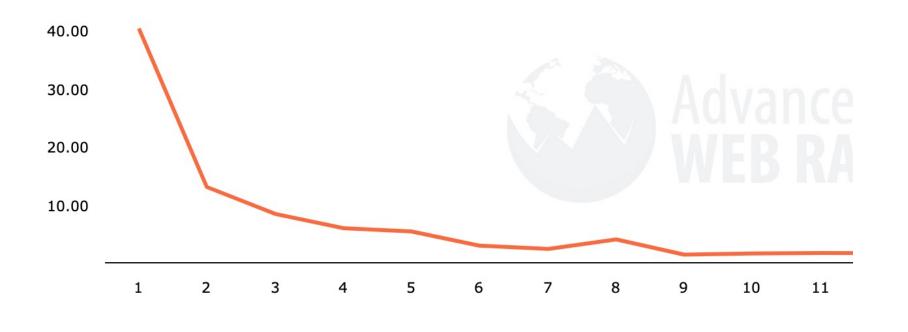
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2. To win the user's attention over rankings

Ranking better than our competitors *≠* more traffic or conversions



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https://www.ambitiouskitchen.com > Blog

The Best Cinnamon Rolls You'll Ever Eat | Ambitious Kitchen

1 Dec 2022 — Ingredients · For the dough: · ¾ cup warm milk (whole milk or 2% preferred) (110 degrees F) · 2 ¼ teaspoons quick rise or active yeast (1/4-ounce ... ★★★★★ Rating: 4.9 · 1,805 votes · 2 hrs 20 mins

The Best Pumpkin Cinnamon... · Yeast Bread Recipes · Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com > Recipes

Cinnamon rolls recipe | BBC Good Food

Ingredients · 500g strong white bread flour, plus extra for dusting · 7g sachet fastdried yeast · 1 tsp ground **cinnamon** · 50g golden caster sugar · 200ml ... ★★★★ Rating: 5 · 21 reviews · 1 hr 20 mins

Especially when all results look similar



https://sallysbakingaddiction.com > Recipes > Breakfast

Easy Cinnamon Rolls (Only 1 Rise)

27 Oct 2022 — These easy **cinnamon rolls** from scratch are perfect for yeast beginners because they only require 1 rise, but still bake up extra soft. $\star \star \star$ Rating: 4.8 · 369 reviews · 2 hrs 5 mins



https://www.bbc.co.uk > food > cinnamon_buns_10634

Cinnamon buns recipe - BBC Food

For the **cinnamon bun** dough · 100g/3½oz unsalted butter · 200ml/7fl oz milk · 1 tsp salt · 250g/9oz plain or wholemeal plain flour, plus extra for dusting · 250g/9oz ... ★★★★ Rating: 4.4 · 188 votes · 2 hrs 30 mins

https://www.waitrose.com > ... > All recipes

Martha's Cinnamon Rolls Recipe | Waitrose & Partners

For the dough · 75g butter · 100ml semi skimmed milk · 250g plain flour · 250g strong plain flour · 7g easy bake/quick yeast · 25g caster sugar · 2 British Blacktail ... ★★★★ Rating: 4 · 1 review · 45 mins



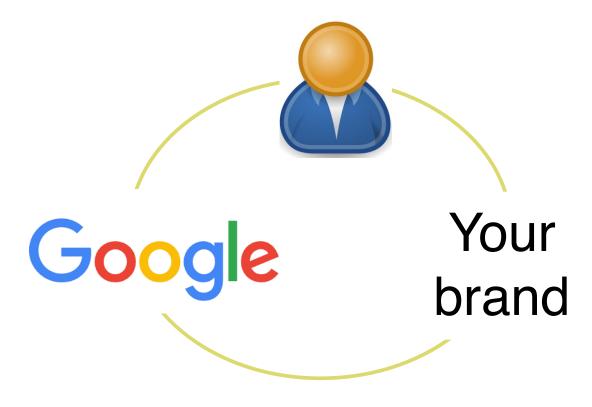


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3. To increase engagement and build brand equity

Our job doesn't end when the user lands on the site: we need to keep them there to continue the journey.



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I've said it before, and I'll say it again:

#SEO now is about the entire website.



Adriana Stein

@adrianakstein

Changing meta data alone is not SEO. Optimizing an H1 alone is not SEO. Writing random blog articles alone is not SEO.

1:00 PM · Dec 21, 2022



John Mueller is mostly not here 👛 liked

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Adriana Stein

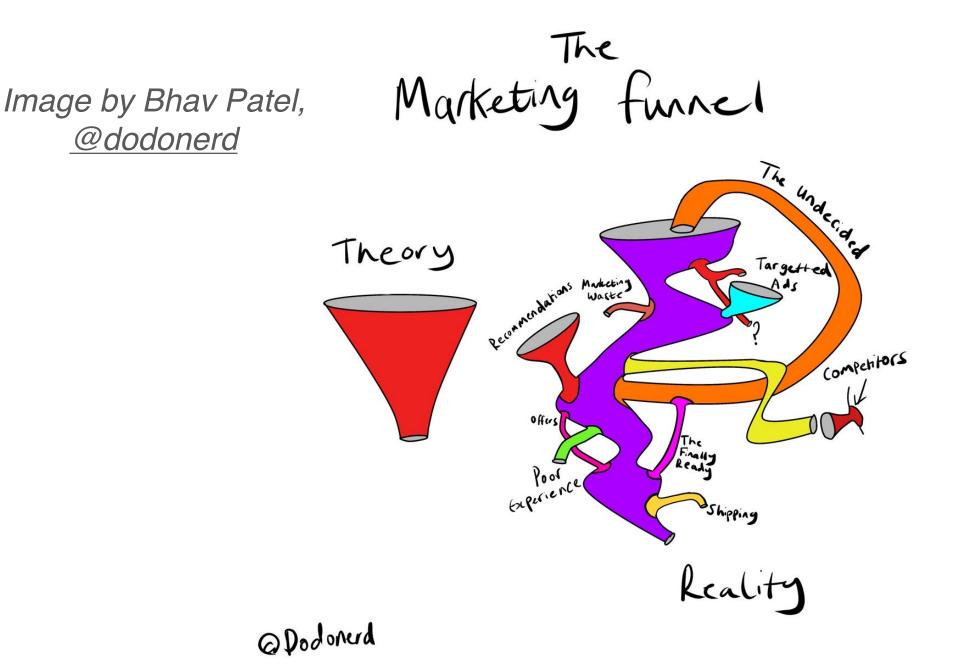
@adrianakstein

Changing meta data alone is not SEO. Optimizing an H1 alone is not SEO. Writing random blog articles alone is not SEO.

1:00 PM · Dec 21, 2022

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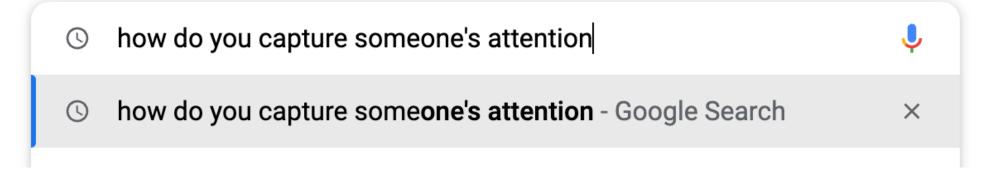
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#1 - CAPTURING THE ATTENTION

VISIT

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10 Ways Great Speakers Capture People's Attention

1. Start with the unexpected. Start with a bang, not a whimper. ...

2. Make it about them. ...

3. Keep it concrete at the start. ...

4. Keep it moving. ...

5. Get to the point. ...

6. Arouse emotion. ...

7. Keep it interactive. ...

8. Write clear headlines.

More items... • 5 Mar 2014

https://www.inc.com > sims-wyeth > how-to-capture-and-...

10 Ways Great Speakers Capture People's Attention | Inc.com

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More items... • 5 Mar 2014

https://www.inc.com > sims-wyeth > 10 Ways Great Speakers

https://www.weforum.org > agenda > 2015/03 > 7-scien... i
7 scientifically proven ways to capture someone's attention
19 Mar 2015 — Automaticity: Activate the senses. · Framing: Contextualize your argument to

appeal to your audience. · Disruption: Break expectations. · Reward: ...

https://hbr.org > 2015/03 > 7-ways-to-capture-someone...

7 Ways to Capture Someone's Attention

3 Mar 2015 — But think about more subtle ways to play on people's instincts to **capture attention**. For example, try giving a star prospect or client a hot cup ...

https://www.powerofpositivity.com > capture-someones...

10 Ways To Capture Someone's Attention (In 30 Seconds Or ...

```
2 Apr 2020 — Here are ten ways to capture someone's attention in 30 seconds or less. ; 1. Leave Some Mystery ; 2. Get A "Yes" Response First ; 3. Use Body ...
```

https://magneticspeaking.com > Blog

How to Be More Attractive and Get Someone's Attention

 $1 - \cdot 2$ – Be interested in your audience. $\cdot 3$ – Become a good storyteller. $\cdot 4$ – Have a unique point of view. $\cdot 5$ – Become "Brain Candy." $\cdot 6$ – Develop your voice.

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https://hbr.org > 2015/03 > 7-ways-to-capture-som 7 Ways to Capture Someone's Atte 3 Mar 2015 — But think about more subtle ways attention. For example, try giving a star prospect

https://www.powerofpositivity.com > capture-some **10 Ways To Capture Someone's A** 2 Apr 2020 — Here are ten ways to **capture som** Leave Some Mystery ; 2. Get A "Yes" Response I

https://www.romper.com > 7-weird-but-genius-ways-to-...

7 Weird, But Genius Ways To Get Someone To Pay Attention ...

29 Jul 2018 — 1 · Stand In Silence · 2 · Consider Your Scent · 3 · Use Their Name · 4 · Treat Your Outfit As A Way To Start Conversation.

https://www.linkedin.com > pulse > how-capture-someone...

How to capture someone's attention over the phone in 10 ...

12 Dec 2017 — Founder and Managing Director at Blue... \cdot Be original. One of the best ways to **capture someone's attention** quickly over the phone is to be ...

https://www.transformationmarketing.com > capture-au...

How to Capture an Audience's Attention

12 Aug 2020 — Research has shown that you have about eight seconds to **capture** people's **attention**. That's the length of the average **attention** span, ...

https://www.artofmanliness.com > Articles

7 Techniques for Capturing People's Attention

20 Jun 2019 — The person who can **capture** and hold **attention** is the person who can effectively influence human behavior. What, we may ask, is a failure in life ...

https://magneticspeaking.com > Blog

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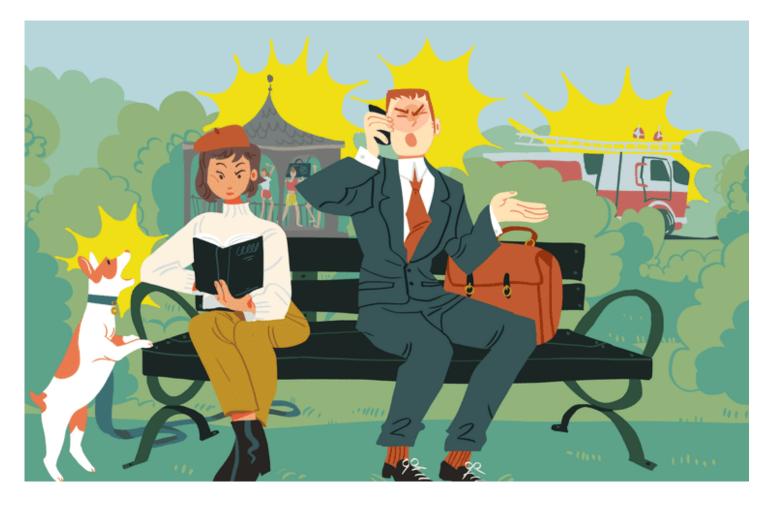
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Selective attention



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Selective attention

The process of bringing perceived stimuli further into processing

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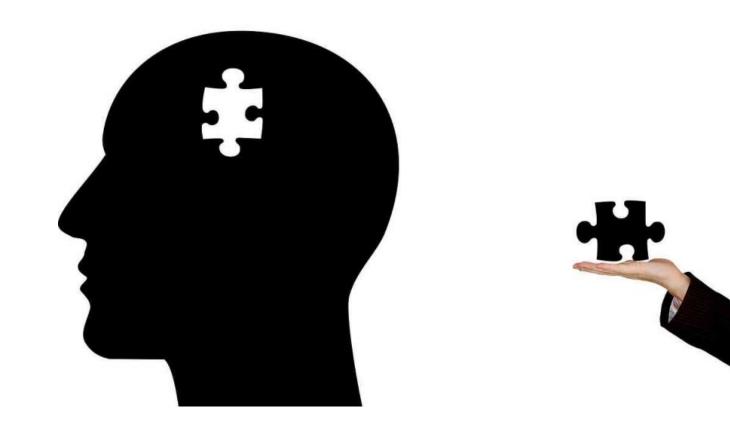
Internal factors (e.g. motivation)



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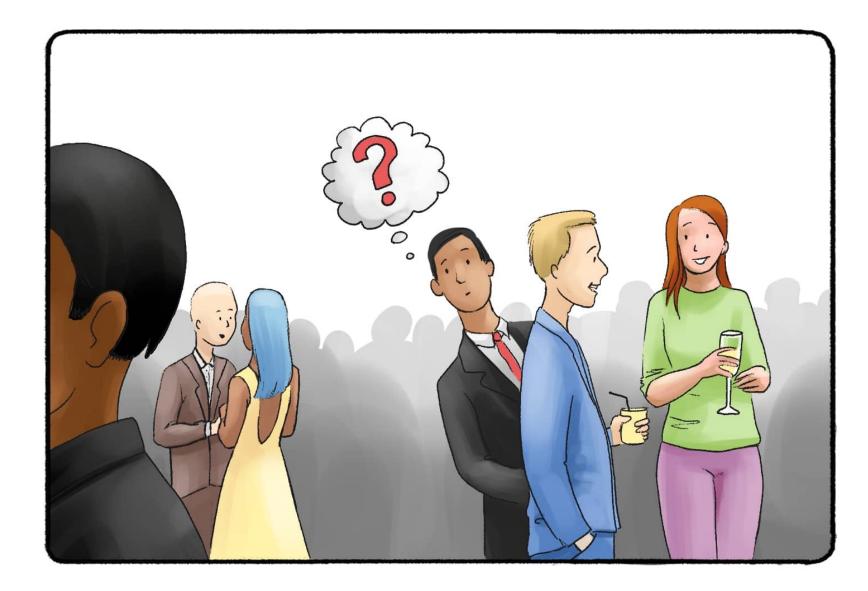
Cognitive biases



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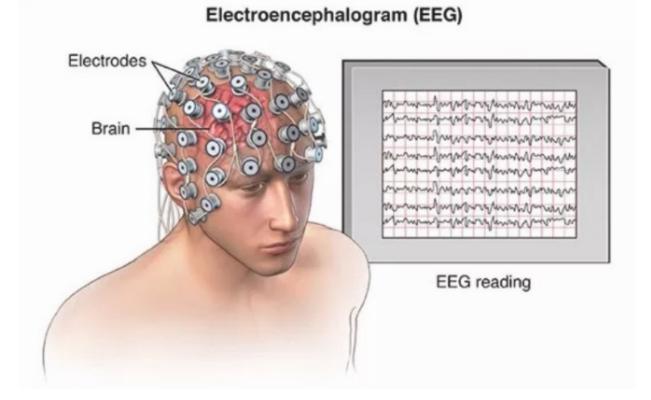
External factors (e.g. 'cocktail party effect')



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Event Related Potentials (ERPs)



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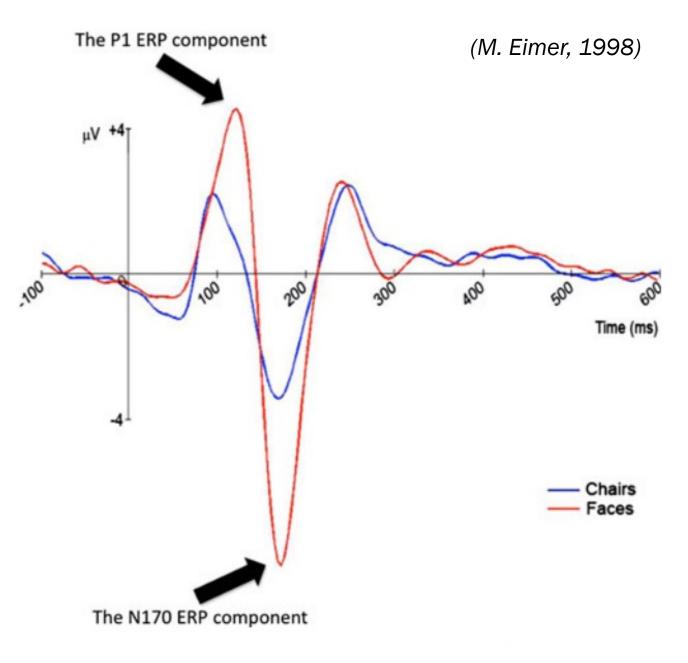
Event Related Potentials (ERPs)

Common brain activation patterns observed in relation to certain stimuli

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N170 Selective to face configurations



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...But responds even to face-like objects!



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<u>N170</u>



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<u>N170</u>



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<u>N170</u>



Google brings emoji back to the SERPs 😍 🙌 💯 - Search Engine Watch

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'Emojis evoked more negative N170 and N2 brain potentials compared to human faces both during a mere presentation and as feedback stimuli.'

(M. Weiß, P. Mussel & J. Hewig, 2020)

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https://www.londonxlondon.com > birthday-in-london

Celebrating a Birthday in London? Here's How To Do It Right...

1 Mar 2022 — **Celebrating** a **birthday** in London? From gin clubs to spa days, don't miss this guide packed with ideas for a special occasion in the capital.

× 🤳

https://candaceabroad.com > london-birthday-ideas

101+ London Birthday Ideas: How to Celebrate Your Big Day

4 Jul 2022 — How to **Celebrate Your Birthday** in London ; Go to the Shard ; Or book a night at the Shangri-La Hotel ; Head to Groupon ; Have an afternoon tea on ... How to Celebrate Your... · – If you liked this post be sure...

https://www.tagvenue.com > ... > Private Events

Our Top 19 Best Ideas for Your Birthday in London - Tagvenue

5 Jan 2023 — Our Top 19 Best Ideas for **Your Birthday** in London ; 1. Let's get down. Bermondsley Social Club ; 2. Put the party on wheels.

https://www.getyourguide.com > travel-guides > things-...

Things To Do in London: 13 Fun Birthday Ideas - GetYourGuide 24 Aug 2022 — The Classics. See the city from a river cruise. Celebrating birthday over a lunch

cruise · Fancy things to do in London on your birthday Take a ...

https://thenudge.com > features > the-best-birthday-idea...

The Best Birthday Ideas In London - The Nudge

The only thing that all **birthday celebrations** have in common is that you get at ... It's a guaranteed way to get **your** whole party boozed...whilst soaking up a ...

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aMMN (150-250ms): auditory vMMN (120-350ms): visual



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LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

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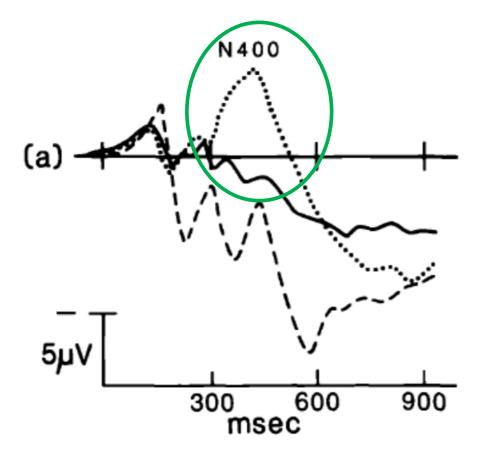
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 aMMN (150-250ms): auditory
 vMMN (120-350ms): visual
 N400: semantic



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Kutas, M., & Hillyard, S. A. (1980)

He spread the warm bread with <u>butter</u>.
 He spread the warm bread with <u>BUTTER</u>.
 He spread the warm bread with <u>socks</u>.

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Search Engine Roundtable

https://www.seroundtable.com > google-bold-seo-32418

Google Confirms Again, Bolding Words Does Help With SEO

15 Nov 2021 — **Google's** John Mueller **confirmed** again that **bolding** words and "important points on a paragraph" does help with SEO and rankings.





Search Engine Roundtable

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Best Recipes UK

https://bestrecipesuk.com > Recipes

Chocolate Cake with Caramel & Marmite Buttercream

Marmite; love it or hate it, you will adore this cake! This cake is wonderfully light with a salted caramel buttercream. Will your friends & family guess ...







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#2 – COGNITIVE BIASES

RESEARCH

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Cognitive Biases

Systematic errors Processing and interpreting information Judgement and Decision making

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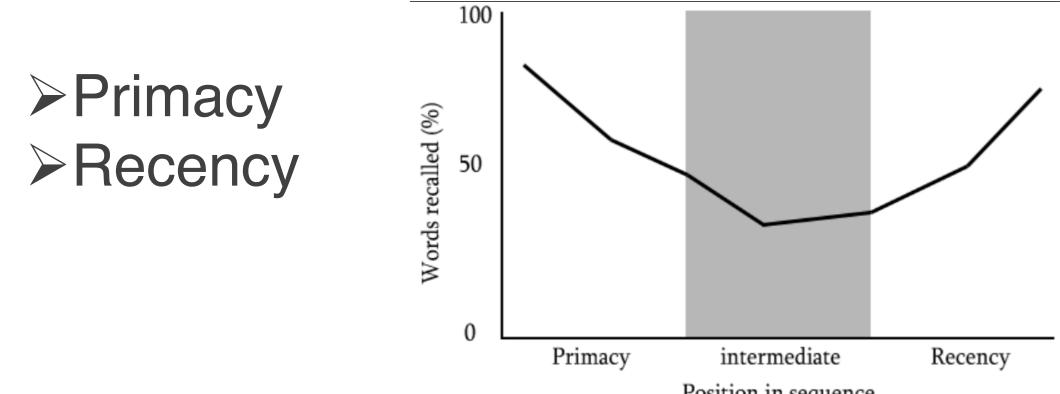
Serial Position Effect

Pencil	Considerable	Drum	
Bread	Book	Eggs	
Heath	Cinema	Periodical	
Imagination	Computer	Mouse	
Sum	Autonomous	Anniversary	

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Serial Position Effect



Position in sequence

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Serial Position Effect

It's easier to recall items that are placed at the **beginning** or at the **end** of a list

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Anchoring Effect



This item Tristar FR-6980BS Air Fryer, 2 L, 1000 W, Compact Design, Adjustable Thermostat, Timer, Black



Chefman TurboFry 2 Litre Air Fryer, Personal & Compact, Adjustable Temperature Control, 30-minute Timer and Dishwasher-safe Basket, Black



Dihl 2L Air Fryer Black Gold Rapid Healthy Cooker Oven Low Fat Free Food Frying

Add to Basket	Add to Basket	Add to Basket
★★★★★ (1108)	★★★★☆ (30282)	★★★★☆ (417)
£68.06	£54.99	£49.99

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Compromise Effect



This item Tristar FR-6980BS Air Fryer, 2 L, 1000 W, Compact Design, Adjustable Thermostat, Timer, Black



Chefman TurboFry 2 Litre Air Fryer, Personal & Compact, Adjustable Temperature Control, 30-minute Timer and Dishwasher-safe Basket, Black



Dihl 2L Air Fryer Black Gold Rapid Healthy Cooker Oven Low Fat Free Food Frying

Add to Basket	Add to Basket	Add to Basket
★★★★☆ (1108)	★★★★☆ (30282)	★★★☆☆ (417)
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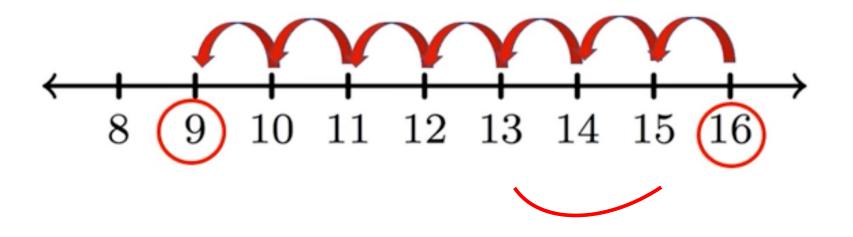
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Numerical Biases

Distance effect

 \rightarrow 9 vs 16 easier than 13 vs 16

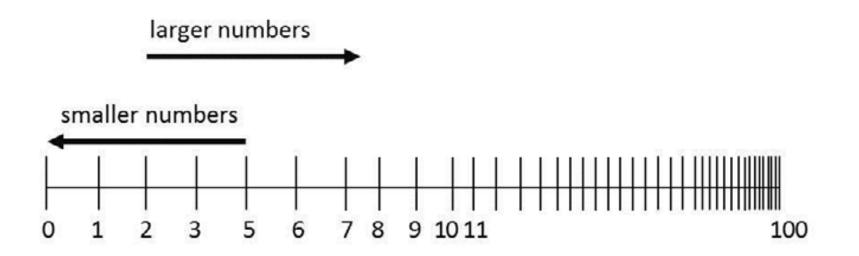


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Numerical Biases

Size effect

\rightarrow 15 vs 23 easier than 237 vs 245



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Numerical Biases

In both cases, judging differences becomes harder as magnitude increases

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Regular Price: £1700

'Save 34% on your sofa' **Faster**

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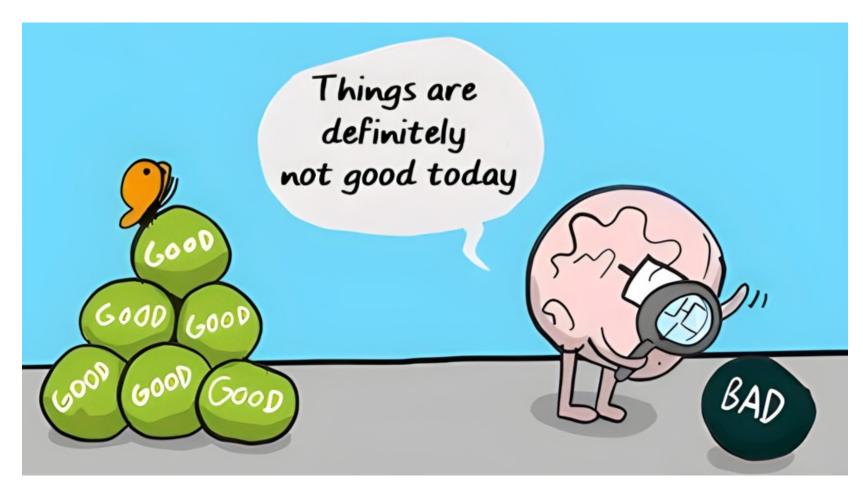
Regular Price: £1700

Save £581 on your sofa'

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Negativity Bias

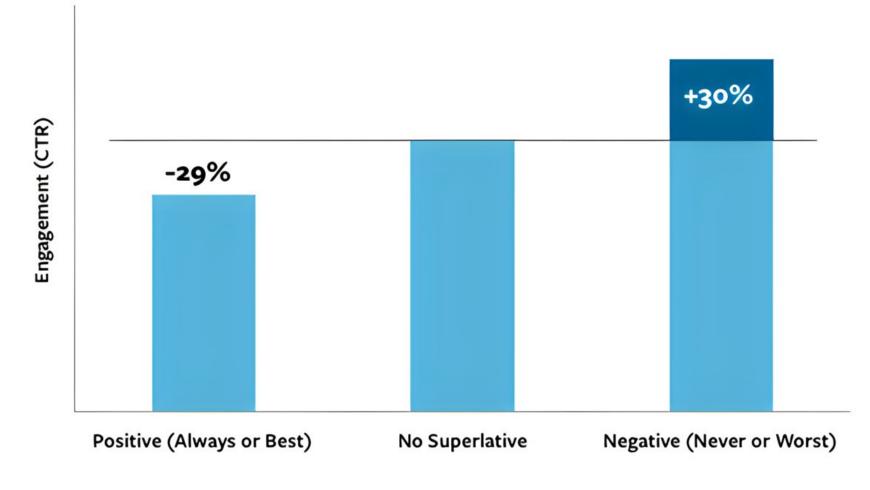


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Source: seoClarity

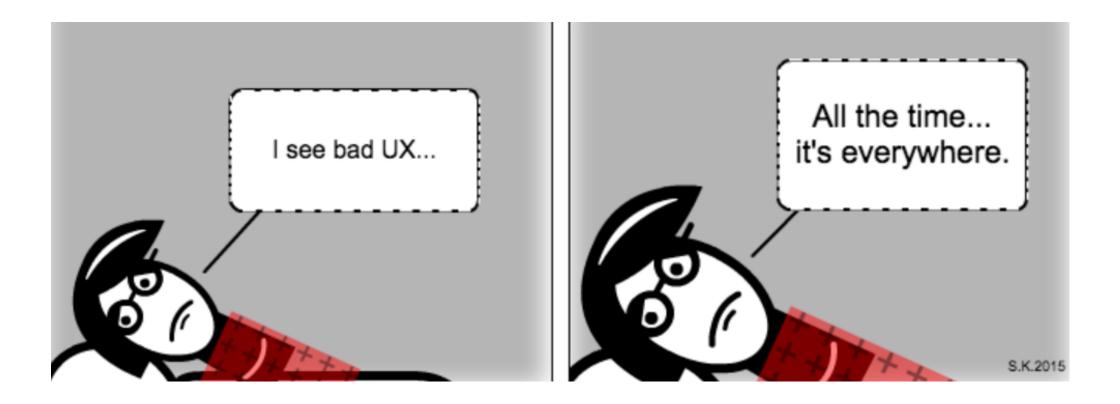
Positive vs. Negative Superlatives in Titles



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Negativity Bias



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Slow or overwhelming flow Unclear or contradicting information 404 pages

A Page not found

We apologise, but we cannot find the page you're looking for. Please start your search from <u>Expedia's homepage</u>.

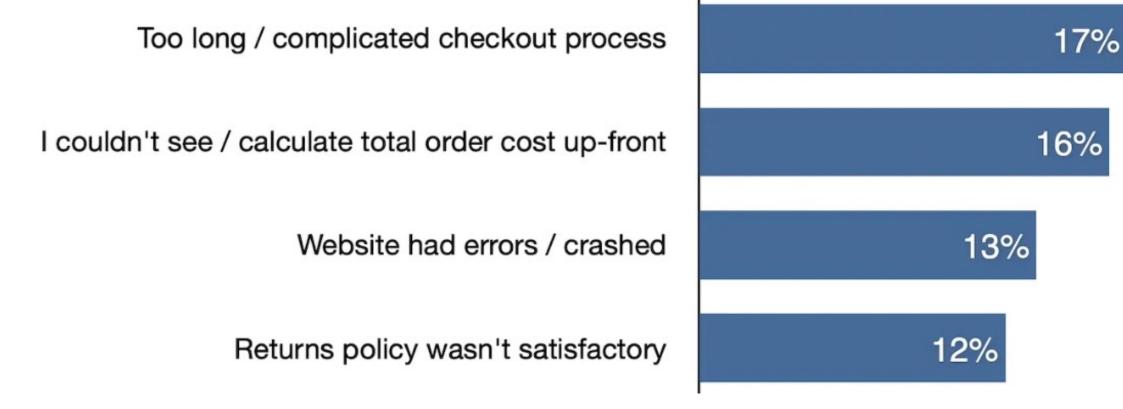
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Reasons for Abandonments During Checkout

4,384 responses · US adults · 2022 · © baymard.com/research

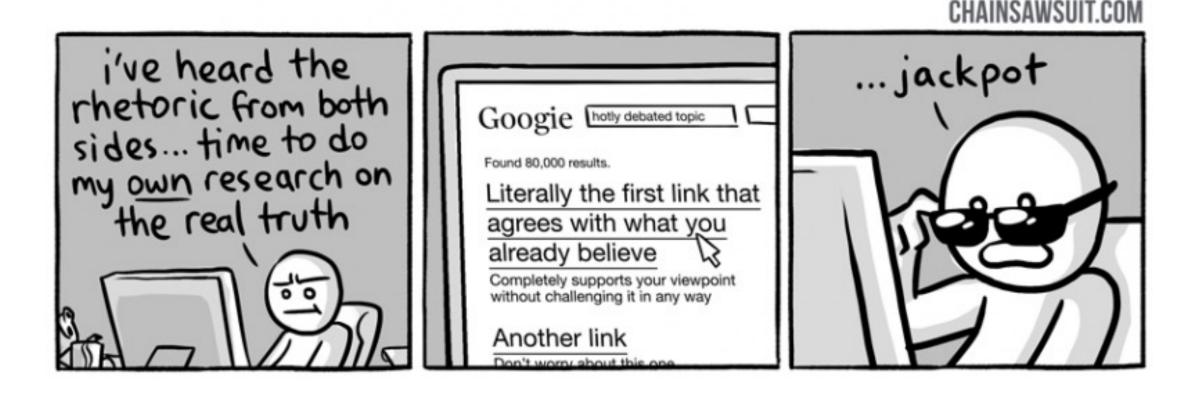
"Have you abandoned any online purchases during the checkout process in the past 3 months? If so, for what reasons?" Answers normalized without the 'I was just browsing' option



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Confirmation Bias



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Example: Travelling post-pandemic



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https://championtraveler.com > news > is-expedia-reliab...

Is Expedia reliable? Can you book safely through their website? As mentioned above, Expedia offers great consumer protection across all of your purchases, especially hotels. Expedia is also one of the most reputable names in ...



https://championtraveler.com > news > is-expedia-reliab...

Is Expedia reliable? Can you book safely through their website? As mentioned above, Expedia offers great consumer protection across all of your purchases, especially hotels. Expedia is also one of the most reputable names in ...

https://uk.trustpilot.com > ... > Travel deals

Read Customer Service Reviews of www.expedia.co.uk

I wouldn't recommend booking via **Expedia** or via any other flight search engines for that matter.

Simply find your best flights and book via the airline.





If your brand doesn't rank for queries of this kind, potential customers will have to rely on other websites' info.

The existing beliefs they come to the search with will determine what content they'll trust the most (confirmation bias).

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Cluster	Top queries	SUM of Search Volume	
E Reliability Total			44800
Shipping/Delivery Total			32840
[brand] Basics Total			21060
E Selling Total			10080
E Buying Total			7830
Sizing Total			5180
Payment Total			1910
E Returns Total			1750
Misc Total			1600
Customer Service Total			1320
Black Friday Total			640
Fit Total			190
Grand Total			129200

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#3 – HEURISTICS IN DECISION MAKING



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Our cognitive resources are limited and cannot process all of the information available to analyse all of the possible outcomes of a choice

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'A heuristic is a **mental shortcut** that allows people to **solve problems and make judgments quickly** and efficiently'

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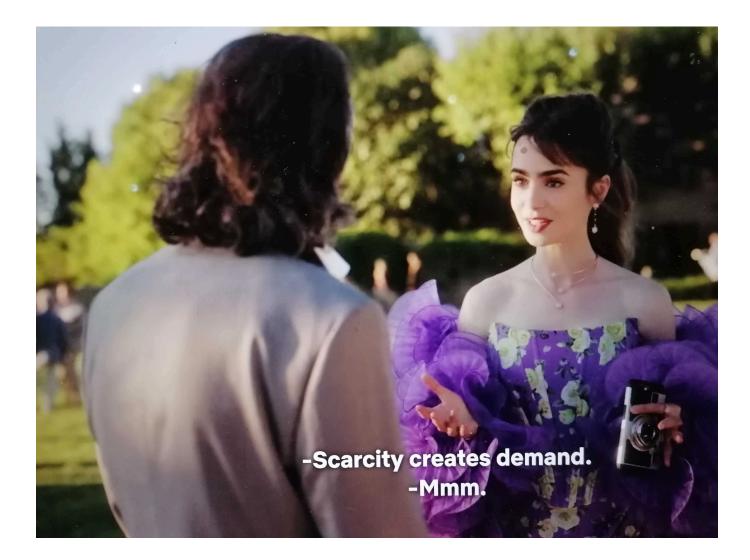
Availability Heuristic



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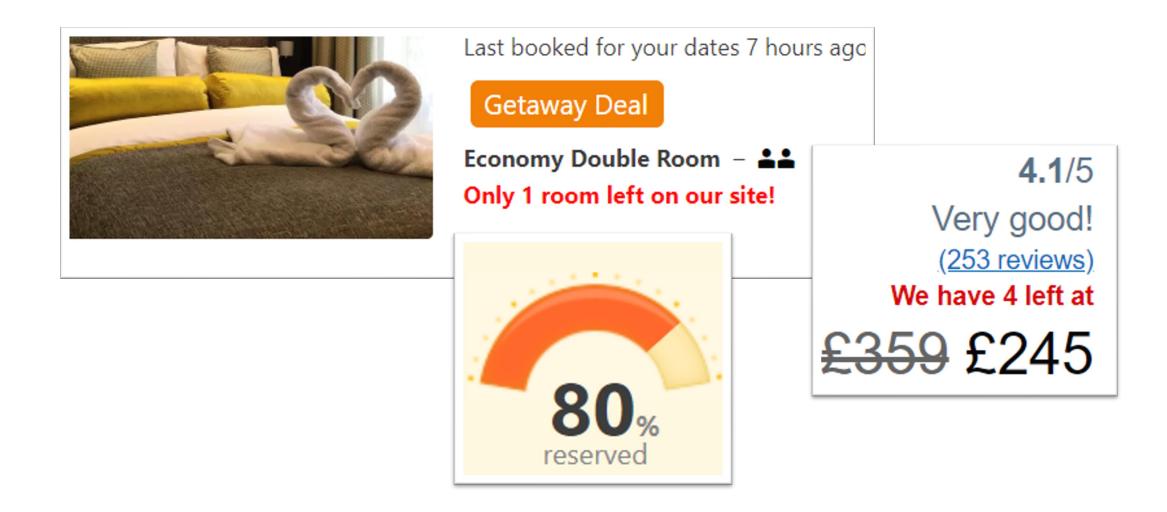
Scarcity Heuristic



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Scarcity Heuristic



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Risk Aversion Heuristic

Pay £32.33 in 3 monthly instalments with Klarna. More Info

Pay £24.25 in 4 instalments bi-weekly with clearpay More Info

Pay in 3 interest-free payments on eligible purchases with PayPal More Info



Risk Aversion Heuristic

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Pay in 3 interest-free payments on eligible purchases with PayPal More Info

46,046 people protected their tickets in the last 7 days.



Travel insurance for only £0.90

Comprehensive cover, including:

- A full refund if you have to cancel for emergencies
- Disruptions to your journey covered up to £250
- Personal possessions insured up to £500

Risk Aversion Heuristic

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Pay £24.25 in 4 instalments bi-weekly with clearpay More Info

Pay in 3 interest-free payments on eligible purchases with PayPal More Info

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Comprehensive cover, including:

- A full refund if you have to cancel for emergencies
- Disruptions to your journey covered up to £250
- Personal possessions insured up to £500

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FREE Returns

Familiarity Heuristic



£1,90



£2,00

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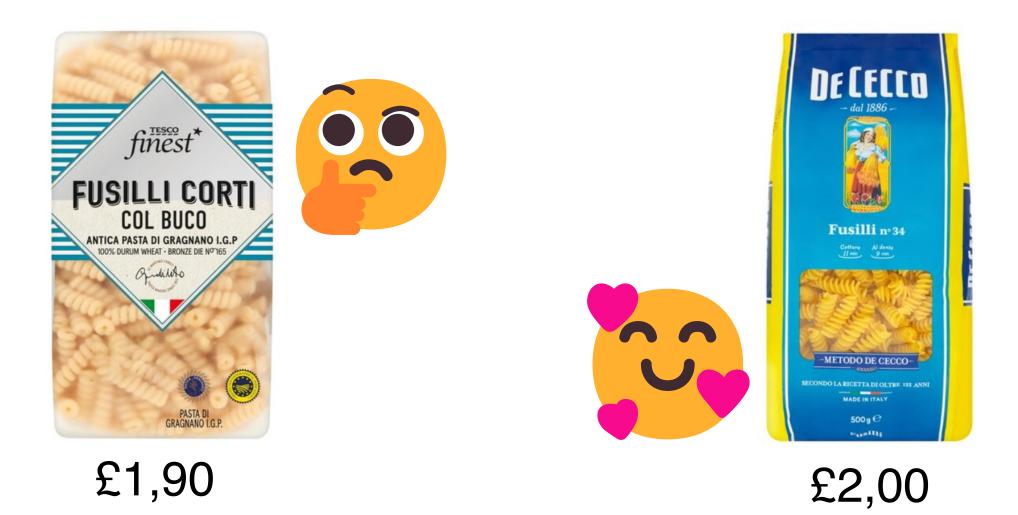
Familiarity Heuristic



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Familiarity Heuristic



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Elaboration Likelihood Model

High VS Low personal investment determines if persuasion is going to be off the quality or quantity of arguments

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#4 – SOCIAL PROOF

ORDER

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The KFC x Crocs Clogs Sold Out In Minutes — But You Can Still Buy Them



Fans fuming as KFC Crocs sell out in 30 minutes

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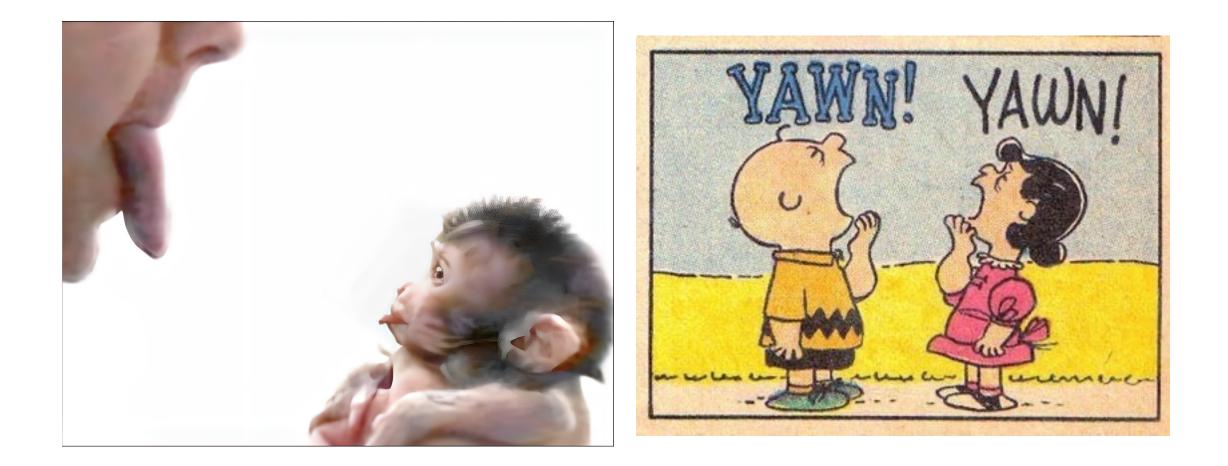
Social Proof

The brain is 'socially wired'

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Neuron mirrors and simulation theory



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Interaction facilitation induced by social cues



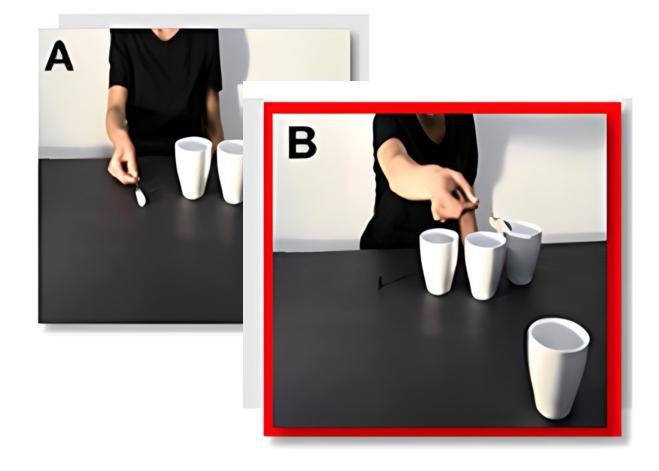
Natural switch from an imitative to a **complementary social action** in CS activity

(Sartori et al., 2012)

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Interaction facilitation induced by social cues



Natural switch from an imitative to a **complementary social action** in CS activity

(Sartori et al., 2012)

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If you are not satisfied with the baby leakage protection, you will get your money back. Read more about our leakfree guarantee at www.baby.com

le for the sensitive skin.

ve skin, add the chemicals and moisture you have diaper rash.

's unique high-absorbency natural-blend cotton des cotton-soft, extra thick, gel-free protection you tury's sensitive skin. The chlorine-free materials and sorbent polymers is non-toxic and non-irritating. Clinically ested and pediatrician recommended for babies with allergies Participant filter: All 10.43 secs

> ive m er In.

f you are not suffified with the baby leakage protection, you will get your money back. Read more about our leakfree guarantee at www.baby.com

Is and moisture

absorbency natural-blend cotton oft, extra thick, gel-free protection aby's sensitive skin. The chlorine-free materials and mers is non-toxic and non-irritating. Clinically trician recommended for babies with allergies

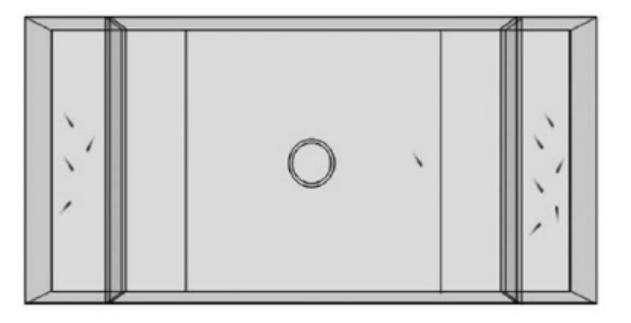
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The Bandwagon effect

Agrillo et al., 2012

→ Conformity behaviour



....Even in fish!

#BrightonSEO

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MOXY London Heathrow Airport, a Marriott Hotel

Hounslow

8.4/10 Very good (1,041 reviews)

London Chigwell Prince Regent Hotel, BW Signature Collection

Woodford Green

7.2/10 Good (469 reviews)





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Dolo of rovious		
Role of reviews	Air Jordan 1 Elevate Low	
	Women's Shoes	
	- White	
	£114.95	
	Nike Official	

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk > ... > Paris > Paris Hotels

Passy Eiffel Hotel Reviews, Paris - France - TripAdvisor

Looking for a place to stay in Paris? Then look no further than **Passy Eiffel Hotel**, a romantic **hotel** that brings the best of Paris to your doorstep.

:

 $\star \star \star \star \star \star$ Rating: 4.5 · 1,001 reviews · Price range: ££ (Based on Average Nightly Rates for a Standard Room from our Partners)

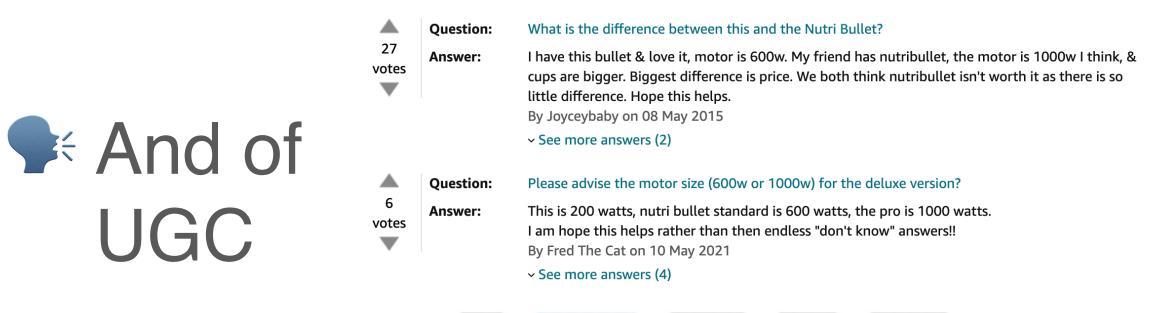




Jordan 1 Mid -Men Shoes -Red - Leather, Synthetics - Si... £119.99 Footlocker.co.uk

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All

From visitors

Photos

By owner

360° view

Summary (202)



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Our latest update to the quality rater guidelines: E-A-T gets an extra E for Experience

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#5 – THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS

VISIT

RESEARCH

DECISION

ORDER

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People make decisions emotionally and then they justify them rationally

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Six Basic Emotions

(Ekman, 1999)

Happy Fear Sad

Surprise



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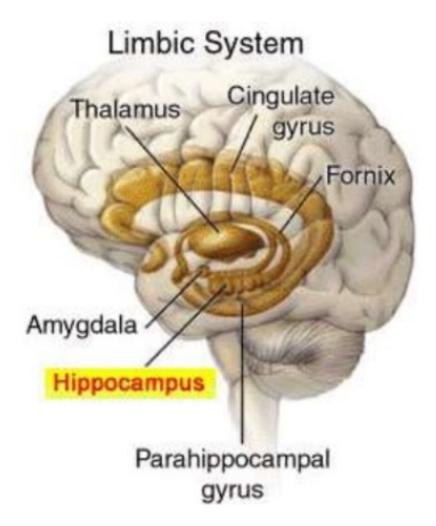
Anger

The Somatic Marker Hypothesis

That gut feeling...

Emotional processes guide decision making

(Damasio, 1991)



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	uld be too. We'll check 2 you the lowest hotel price	
Hotels » Restaurants »	Flights » Plan your perfect trip »	

Tripadvisor 404 page

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Positive emotional experiences correlate with perceived

- Brand Authenticity
- ✓ Safety

 Trust Effect of Emotion, Expectation, and Privacy on Purchase Intention in WeChat Health Product Consumption: The Mediating Role of Trust

Ming-Yan Wang ¹, Peng-Zhu Zhang ^{2,*}, Cheng-Yang Zhou ¹ and Neng-Ye Lai ¹

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Dr. Parik Patel, BA, CFA, ACCA E... @ParikPatel... Nov 6, 2022 ••• Fellas, don't be afraid to chase a girl if she has a boyfriend.

If she's single, you're competing with 20 other guys.

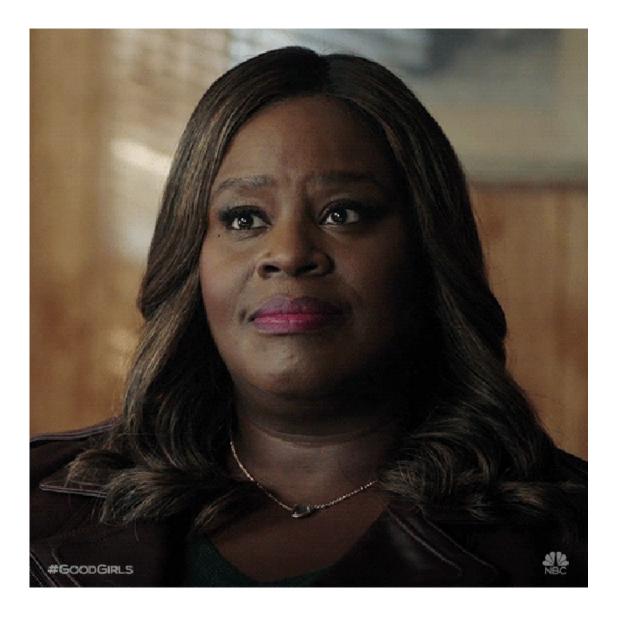
If she's dating someone, you're only competing with one.

Work smarter, not harder.

III Q 1,003 ℃ 2,664 ♡ 31.3K ①

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SO, WHAT DO I NEED TO REMEMBER?

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Dare to stand out

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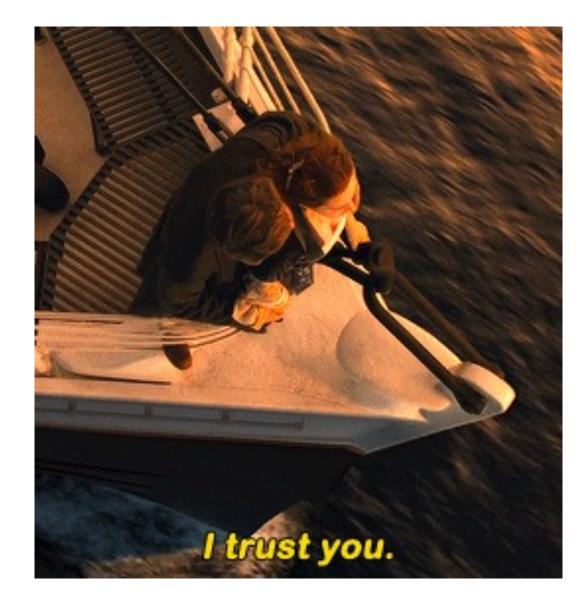
Ditch the silos: make every part of the journey count



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People want to trust and feel safe: make that easy for them

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Thank you!

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n /giulia-panozzo/

neuroscientive.com

APPENDIX: TESTIDEAS AND TAKEAWAYS

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Top of the funnel

- Test emojis in your titles and descriptions to improve CTRs
- Invest in SERP features that your competitors are not using yet

Include something that stands out in your title or copy: bold text, capitalization, unexpected wording

Middle of the funnel

Place important information and value props at the top and at the bottom of your copy

- Choose fractions or percentages (e.g '50% off', '1/2 price') over numbers when showing savings
- Test negative headlines (e.g. '10 holiday destinations not to miss' VS '10 best holiday destinations')

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Bottom of the funnel

- Use messaging that conveys scarcity (but don't fool your users)
- Highlight messaging on flexible payment/booking options and returns
- Include social proof (UGC, reviews) and leverage schema mark-up to highlight it

At every stage

Make every part of the journey count: focus on providing a flawless experience to avoid negativity bias

Work on conveying trustworthiness and expertise by proactively addressing your user's concerns

At every stage

- Work on increasing the availability of your brand as a trusted source in your space (leverage external partners and digital PR)
- Optimize for the user, not the search engine: throughout the user journey, connect on an emotional level

