

#TIPS&TOOLS

How To Learn A New Language

Here are some fresh ideas on the best way to learn a new language.



Why? We get it – learning a new language is challenging, frustrating, and sometimes just downright difficult. And figuring out the best way to learn a new language? That seems nearly impossible. Different science, theories, and learning styles are all over the place, and truthfully, some languages are easier to learn than others.

Maybe you're great at conversing in French, but can't write in Spanish to save your life. Despite the difficulties, multi-language acquisition is rapidly growing in popularity around the world and bilinguality is becoming more of a highly-desired resume addition.

With so much out there in terms of best ways to learn a language, it can be hard to zero in on what language learning tactics would be especially helpful for you personally. In order to revive and renew your drive in learning a foreign language or to improve upon the impressive skills you've already achieved, here are some fresh ideas on the best way to learn a new language:

Keep some of these in mind as you go. You'll be ready to find an intensive language program before you know it!

Make New Friends

If there's a community of people who speak the language you want to learn in your city, start attending events! Friendship is one of the best ways to learn a foreign language, and the easiest way to get comfortable with the slang, intonation, and mannerisms.

You can casually chat with your friends in local cafes, bars, and restaurants and slowly build a foundation on the language you want to learn. The great part about making friends who already speak the language (or are learning right along with you) is that you will be able to practice freely without feeling self-conscious or on the spot!

Copy Elementary School Kids

Remember pen pals? Just because you're an adult now doesn't mean you can't partake! Find an international pen pal and trade language expertise and knowledge. Edit each other's letters (keeping what you both originally wrote), so you can see the correct format and spelling. You'll help each other learn, your skills for writing in a foreign language will increase tenfold, and you may even have someone to visit abroad when you're ready to put those skills to use!

Watch a Movie
For the people who want to take advantage of one of the best ways to learn a language from the comfort of their own home, put on a foreign movie in another language - without subtitles if you can! Not only is this one of the best ways to learn a foreign language, but you will also get a greater sense of that language's culture as well!

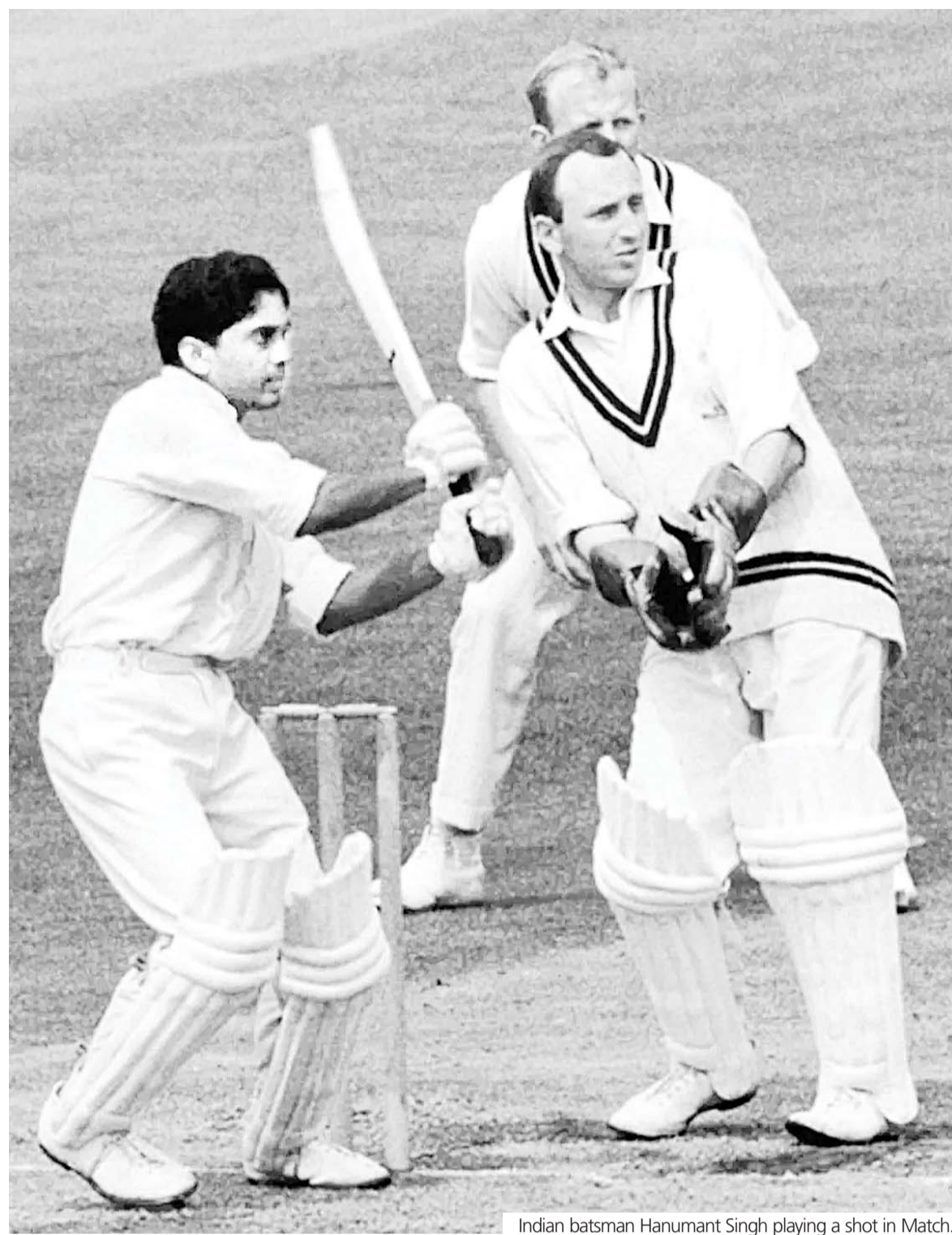
If you don't know enough of the language to turn the subtitles off, keep a list of new vocabulary words you hear and what they mean. Look them up later. Come on, looking up words is fun!

Seek Out Online Resources
The internet is a truly magical place. If you're looking for the best ways to learn a foreign language, look no further! You can fall back on old reliable Google Translate, but why not utilize helpful browser extensions like Toucan?

What else can you do to learn a language online? You can connect with online language learners via online chat groups, watch YouTube videos, and read articles. The internet is ready to help you reach your foreign language learning goals!

Pretend You're at a Restaurant
Read a menu in your target language and pick a dish you would order every day - then look up what it means. The names of your food choices will stick with you! Plus, if you end up choosing something that translates to "dog" or "sheep intestine," you'll know to steer clear of them when you're abroad (unless those are your favourite foods). By the time you head abroad, you'll have an appetite for both the food and the language for sure!

Teach Yourself
The key to this one is small steps of dedicated research and while obvious, remains one of the best ways to learn a new language. Take a little bit of time every day to write out a sentence you would like to know how to say in your target language. Look up each word/section and try to construct the sentence yourself. If you have a language partner, have them double check your sentences when you meet up.



Indian batsman Hanumant Singh playing a shot in Match.



Raju Mukherjee
Former cricket player, coach, selector, match referee and writer

anumant Singh has a unique place in the hearts of the players who played with or against him. In independent India he was the first to introduce batting as an art form. A picture of perfection that took one to ethereal heights.

Grace and graciousness marked him out as an individual. A true cricket ambassador. Far beyond the confines of boundary, of creed, of class. A cricketer whom Mother Teresa would have taken to heart.

His love for cricket extended to cricketers of all hues and abilities. And without hesitation he would freely share his vast and incisive knowledge with whoever evinced any interest. Cool and composed, his languid movement had all the aura of a man at peace with himself.

An Incident Worth Recollecting

Hanumant Singh was born a prince in the erstwhile royal State of Banswara in Rajputana. But never, never was he to show any semblance of princely arrogance or misdemeanor. Rather his aristocratic bearing manifested in the charm of his manner and speech as much as it did in his graceful elegance at the crease.

His bat was like a violinist's bow, playing soft melodious tunes to the ripples of applause of the connoisseurs. He combined the best of attributes of Rajput gha-

rana with those of his missionary school background and very quietly implanted the old world values among the men he played with. In his time Rajasthan was the best behaved State team in Indian cricket and in their relaxed manner had the measure of oppositions who thought killer-instinct meant foul language and ugly gestures.

Hanumant, of course, never led India but it was not forgotten that he was under his leadership that in 1967 the extremely strong West Indies team lost by an innings to the Central and East Zone combined team. That West Indies team, apart from skipper Gary Sobers included Kanhai, Hunte, Butcher, Nurse, Gibbs, Hall and Griffith. He motivated his mates not by words but by gestures and acts. His magnificent innings inspired Chuni Goswami and Subroto Guha to bowl splendid spells in that overwhelming victory.

An incident in that match is worth recollecting. Chuni Goswami held a superlative catch at mid-wicket running about 30 yards as the ball spiralled high and wide. After holding the catch one-handed Goswami, typical of his footballing spirit, ran round the ground holding the ball high as the crowd bellowed its approval for the soccer legend. Skipper Hanumant tried his best to restrain the indomitable Goswami, "Chuni, Chuni, this is cricket, not football. Please stop running." But finding his appeal fall into deaf ears, Hanumant broke into a broad smile and joined in the general applause.

Hanumant was born to be a diplomat. Aware, intelligent, tactful, he injected the essence of diplomacy to his batting and leadership. No violence erupted as he caressed the ball to the railings. No bravado exhibited as the

simplicity permeated deep into his batting. At the crease he - 'Hanu' or 'Chotu' to his peers - made batting appear easy, too easy. This was artistry at its height: effective without apparent effort; graceful without trying to be great. He would dance down the pitch and gently drive the ball. There was no force or violence apparent. When it suited him, his late-cut would be a soft, deft touch to help the ball on its way to the fence.

But the mediocrity mind-set determines that one must give at least the impression of struggle. This hypocrisy Hanumant would never commit. Why should he give an impression of dogged effort when he was perfectly capable of getting the same results with the ease and simplicity that the gifted individuals are endowed with? Ultimately the gifted stroke-maker was eased out after just 14 Tests! At the time he had an average of 31.18 with one century and five 50s. I wonder what the reactions would be if such a fate was handed out to some of our modern-day stars, who have had the luxury of extended run of failures at the crease.

#CRICKET

innings unfolded and the match won. Sheer artistry of form delineated the canvas. He used the willow as a painter would use his brush: contemplation giving way to colour and conception.

But in no way should this mean that Hanumant lacked purpose or resolve, grit or sense of adventure. Quite the contrary. During his short Test career and his long Ranji Trophy innings, he exhibited rare courage, strong determination and a steel-will. But he was very lenient when he judged others. Very liberal in explaining their apparent weaknesses. And, above all, he possessed a sterling quality of praising and motivating youngsters, even of opposing teams.

At a time when princes frittered away their time in frivolous pursuits or joined private sector organizations under fancy designations or made attempts to toe the political establishment to gain ambassadorial postings abroad, Hanumant Singh did something quite extraordinary. He joined a public sector commercial organisation! For a prince this was actually unique.

For even the public school upstart at the time would have regarded this appointment as distinctly low-brow. But to us, the '60s generation, this act was a revelation. Revealed to us the true blue-blooded prince. We marvelled at this non-conventional decision, at his pioneering zeal. We thought if a real prince could join an unflashy public sector organization, why not we? By his action, he helped a whole generation to open its eyes and to disregard false values.

Hanumant Singh's grace and

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Hanumant Was a Prince: But What a Man

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Next year when Simpson's Australians were here in India he played an innings of rare courage and fortitude at Madras. Four wickets had fallen for just 24 runs when Hanumant walked in to join his Rajasthan mentor, Vijay Manjrekar. They proceeded to display a superlative exhibition of batsmanship by adding 93 runs when Manjrekar left at 40. Quickly enough the innings folded for 193 runs but not before Hanumant selflessly threw his wicket away at 94 in trying to shield the tail-enders. That season he played another 6 innings against New Zealand at home at an average of 48.75 including 75 not out and 82.

He was an outstanding fieldsmen close-to-the-wicket. Never got any mention because he did not make a great show of his catching prowess. The catch that he took at Brabourne Stadium in 1964 off Bobby Simpson is still spoken of with awe by connoisseurs who witnessed it.

Evergreen Surti was bowling left-arm spin at the time. Hanumant played defensive forward to smother but the ball jumped a wee bit, struck the batsman's knee and looped in front. From silly mid-off, the agile



Hanumant Singh.



Superhuman Day

For many years, those who have faced the challenges of disability in all its forms have dealt with a stigma that was forced upon them. Society has often treated these individuals as if they were somehow less capable of doing amazing and, dare we say it, superhuman things. Rather than thinking of people who have overcome disabilities as "less than", perhaps the world would benefit from thinking of them as something far beyond average. Perhaps they are really and truly Superhuman!

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Viswanath is no sadness. Truthful and modest till the very end.

His like will not be found again. Hanumant would have made an ideal guide for the nation's youngsters. But he was never asked to. Only once he was sent as manager of the Indian team, to West Indies in early 1968. There at Berbice he left his mark. That was the first time when Kapil Dev's India defeated Clive Lloyd's men in a one-day international. That 'Berbice-win' was the occasion which gave Kapil and his men the confidence to pull off that magnificent victory later in the 1983 World Cup final at Lord's.

Hanumant career as a coach however took him to Nairobi. He was the architect who gave Kenya that outstanding victory over West Indies in the 1996 World Cup in India. Yet, ironically, after the victory Hanumant Singh was relieved of his post. Would it be sadistic on my part to relate that after Hanumant's departure

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Sidelined Forever!

In his only tour abroad, to England in 1967, he batted in 4 Test innings, one of which fetched him 73. This was at Headingley, Leeds, where following on India put up a brilliant but vain resistance to pile up 510 runs. On this tour he was troubled by a nagging injury to his knee.

Unfortunately he missed the tour of Australia, where on the hard surfaces his stroke-play would have found an ideal platform. But that was not to be and in 1969 after just one failure he was sidelined forever! Despite prolific performances later, the stylish batter was never again asked to don the country's cap. Just one failure ended his Test career! Imagine who would have happened to our current stars if they had to face such a cruel fate. Please do not judge our former players by the statistical yardsticks of today.

Even after being permanently side-lined, the Rajput prince Hanumant Singh proved to be a glorious exception. No rancour, no vengeance, no back-biting, the charming gentleman merely said, "To be replaced by Gundappa

Kenya could not make any distinctive mark even among the bottom rankers of international cricket and was eventually demoted?

Hanumant Singh began his first class career with Madhya Pradesh in 1956 but from the following season contributed wholeheartedly for his home-state of Rajasthan and Central Zone for 20 long and fruitful years. He was the first to exhibit to post-independent Indian crowds the concept of charm and artistry in batting and prepared the way for Gundappa Viswanath to follow.

Hanumant Singh was one of my boyhood heroes. Saw him at Eden Gardens in Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy ties and was charmed by his off-the-field manners and his fluid batting style. In 1972 I was actually playing a Duleep Trophy match against my idol at Eden. I was too shy to speak to him or even to wish him! No one has ever accused me of being tongue-tied! But in front of a most friendly Hanumant Singh, I actually lost my voice!

But surprise of surprises, when I was batting very cautiously in the middle of a crisis situation, he actually came forward during a drinks-break to say, "Good going. Don't lose patience." I was astounded.

In the previous match against North Zone, the opposing captain Bisnen Bedi had encouraged the young debutant and now another opposing captain - my idol Hanumant Singh - praising me! I must have been born lucky. Two of cricket's finest ambassadors were willingly offering encouraging words to an unknown, young man from the obscure East! Amazing indeed.

Positive Contributions

Another very interesting issue highlighted the tremendous influence of Hanumant Singh on me. In 1977 when I was dithering over accepting a probationary officer's job at a nationalized bank instead of continuing in the corporate sector, one particular thought helped me to solve the problem: if the Banswara prince could accept a SBI appointment, why not me? That was the kind of lesson Hanumant left behind for others of his generation and beyond.

As the SZ-EZ tie was drenched in pouring rain for days, I was indeed fortunate to have had his company for three full days. He

was full of cricket history, literature and the current scenario.

When I told him that cricket followers were surprised that he was overlooked as manager to the world cup in 1983 despite his undoubted contribution as manager in the 'Berbice-win', Hanumant replied, "As manager Maan Singh did a great job in England in 1983." Still I persisted, "Yes, Maan Singh was outstanding, but he too was relieved after that. Why do you think you were not reappointed later?"

Hanumant thankfully opened up. "In my report to BCCI, I mentioned 3 batters who were unwilling to face the fast bowlers in the West Indies in the island matches. This did not go down well with BCCI as all 3 had very powerful backlogs. They are still around. I only hope that they make positive contributions to India's effort. I would be happy to be proved wrong."

What a visionary Hanumant was. Believe it or not, all the three represented India as specialist batters and ended their careers with a combined total of 24 Tests and respective averages of 26, 18 and 25 without being able to score a single century between them! Specialist batsmen for over a decade! This frank and candid report of a real India well-wisher was put in the waste-paper basket by the powers-that-be.

Hanumant was simplicity and sophistication personified. In speech, in manner and in appearance. Accessible, calm and friendly, he continually maintained his distinctive posture throughout both on and off the field. A willing and patient listener, he was never spoke much; certainly never a word out of place. Never could admonish anyone with an offensive remark or act. I do not think anyone ever has spoken ill of him.

A prince by birth he was; a prince by title he was. But a prince who just refused to be recognized as a prince. He was indeed a genuine member of royalty. The prince who voluntarily sacrificed power and position. A prince who willingly came forward to serve all and sundry without an iota of discrimination. The man's graceful and gracious demeanour gave shape to an impressionable young mind at Calcutta in the early 1960s.

In the pantheon of Indian cricket, he was the Gautama Buddha, the erstwhile prince of Kapilavastu, who sacrificed self-interest to serve humanity. ■■■
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method to convert a commonly thrown-away plastic into a resin used in 3D-printing could allow for making better use of plastic waste.

Researchers developed a simple and efficient way to convert polylactic acid (PLA), a bio-based plastic used in products such as filament, plastic silverware, and food packaging, to a high-quality resin.

"We found a way to immediately turn this into something that's stronger and better, and we hope that will provide people the incentive to upcycle this stuff instead of just toss it away," says Yung-Chung Chang, a postdoctoral researcher in the Washington State University School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering and a co-corresponding author of the study, published in Green Chemistry. "We made stronger materials just straight out of trash. We believe this could be a great opportunity."

About 300,000 tons of PLA are produced annually, and its use is increasing dramatically.

Although it's bio-based, PLA, which is categorized as a number seven plastic, doesn't break down easily. It can float in fresh or salt water for a year without degrading. It is also rarely recycled because like many plastics, when it's melted down and re-formed, it doesn't perform as well as the original version and becomes less valuable.

It's biodegradable and compostable, but once you look into it, it turns out that it can take up to 100 years for it to decompose in a landfill," Chang says. "In reality, it still creates a lot of pollution. We want to make sure that when we do start producing PLA on the million-ton scale, we will know how to deal with it."

In the study, lead author Jinwen Zhang, professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and colleagues developed a fast and catalyst-free method to recycle the PLA, breaking the long chain of molecules down into simple monomers - the building blocks for many plastics. The entire chemical process can be done at mild temperatures in about two days. The chemical they used to break down the PLA, aminomethanol, is also inexpensive.

"If you want to recycle a Lego castle into a car, you have to break it down brick by brick," Chang says. "That's what we did. The aminomethanol precision-cut the PLA back to its basic building blocks, the researchers rebuilt the plastic and created a type of photo-curable liquid resin that is commonly used as printing "ink" for 3D printers. When it was used in a 3D printer and cured into plastic pieces, the product showed equal or better mechanical and thermal properties than commercially available resins.

The researchers have filed a provisional patent and are working to further optimize the process. They are also looking into other applications for the upcycling method.



Hanumant Singh with ML Jaisinha.

#ENVIRONMENT

A Second Life For Plastic Forks?



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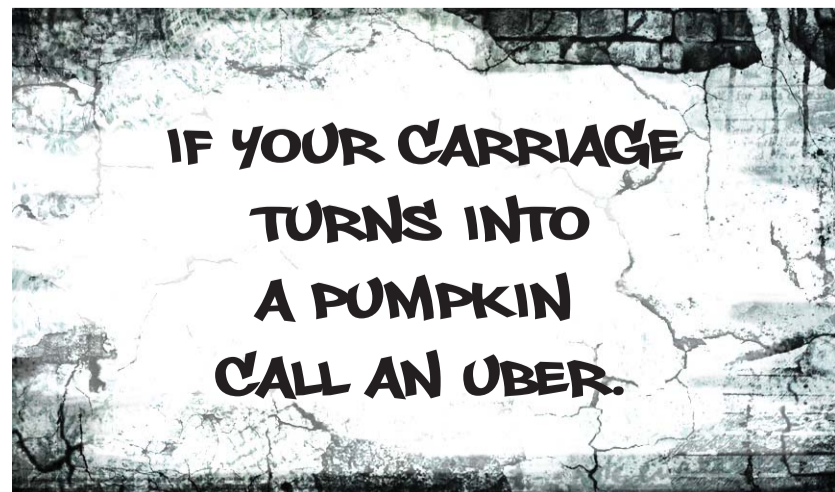
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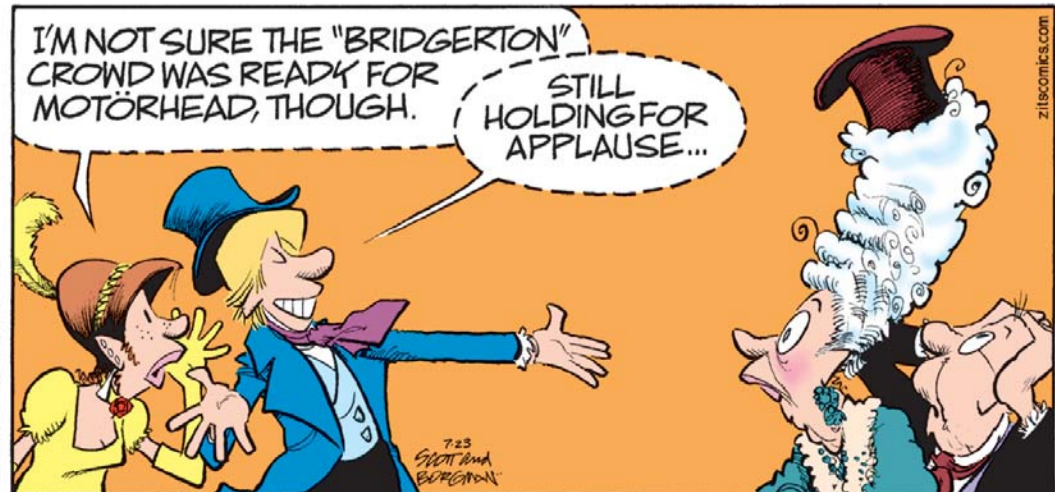
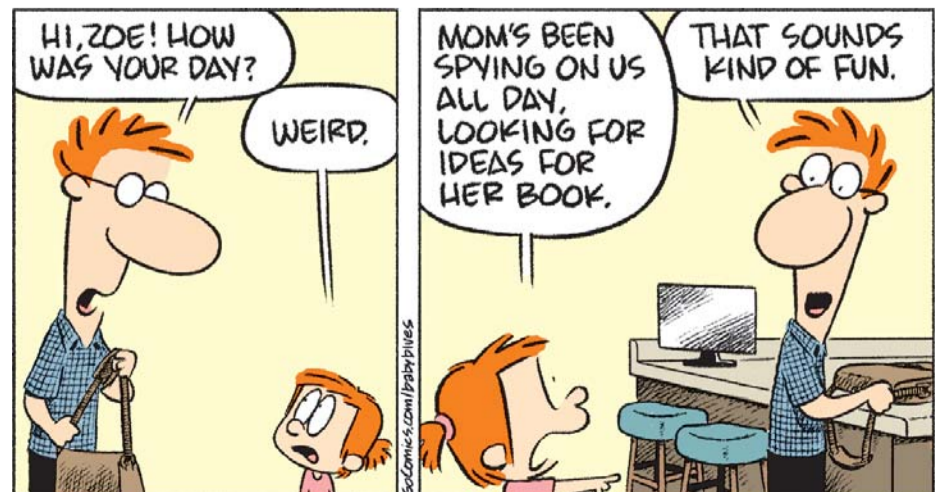


Hanumant Singh with ML Jaisinha.

THE WALL

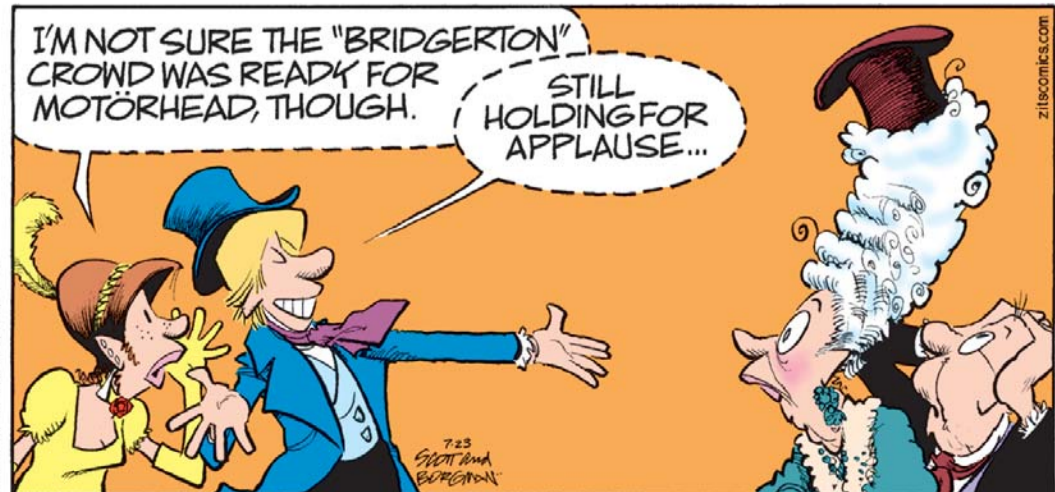


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman