

## #SKILL

# The Art of Super-communication

Elevating your Influence through Words and Presence!



Imagine stepping into a room and captivating your audience before even saying a word. The way you carry yourself, the confidence in your voice, and the clarity of your message all contribute to an invisible yet undeniable force, your ability to communicate with impact. In a world where information moves rapidly, those who master the nuances of communication rise above the noise, forge deeper connections, and inspire action. Becoming a "supercommunicator" is not about talking more, it is about talking wisely, listening intently, and understanding profoundly.

True communication extends beyond words. The best communicators are keen listeners, absorbing and interpreting not only what is said but also what remains unspoken. They engage with their audience through presence, using active listening techniques such as maintaining eye contact, responding with affirmations, and reflecting on key points to demonstrate understanding. Their words are concise yet powerful, structured in a way that captures attention and delivers meaning without unnecessary complexity. They recognize that silence can be just as powerful as words, allowing for pauses that emphasize key points and give listeners time to absorb information.

Beyond verbal articulation, an awareness of non-verbal cues can dramatically enhance the effectiveness of communication. A slight shift in body language, a well-timed pause, or a change in vocal tone can subtly influence how a message is received.

Supercommunicators possess an innate ability to read these cues and adjust their approach accordingly, ensuring that their message resonates with clarity and authenticity. They cultivate an awareness of their own body language, knowing that their gestures, posture, and facial expressions contribute as much to the message as their words do. Emotional intelligence lies at the heart of powerful communication. Those who communicate at an elevated level exhibit deep

empathy, responding to conversations not just with logic but with an understanding of human emotion. They tailor their words to different audiences, knowing that a conversation with a corporate leader requires a different approach than one with a friend in distress. This adaptability creates trust and fosters genuine relationships. They understand that effective communication is not about imposing ideas, but about facilitating meaningful dialogue that encourages collaboration and understanding.

The most compelling communicators do not merely convey facts, they tell stories. A well-crafted narrative has the power to move people, making abstract ideas tangible and memorable. Stories bring authenticity, allowing speakers to connect with their audience on a deeper level, transcending a simple exchange of information into an engaging experience. Whether they are inspiring a team, negotiating a deal, or delivering a keynote speech, supercommunicators weave narratives that resonate emotionally and intellectually, making their messages unforgettable.

In a digital age where much of our communication happens through screens, mastering written and virtual communication is just as crucial as face-to-face interactions. Clarity in emails, professionalisms in messaging, and engaging presence in virtual meetings all contribute to one's ability to communicate effectively across various platforms. In a world where digital miscommunication is common, supercommunicators ensure that their tone, punctuation, and word choice align perfectly with their intended message.

Excellence in communication is not an innate gift, but a skill that can be refined with practice. Seeking constructive feedback, observing skilled communicators, and continuously adapting to different contexts can elevate one's ability to engage, persuade, and inspire. Investing in communication training, reading extensively, and learning from great speakers further strengthens one's ability to articulate thoughts with precision and impact.

# The Poor Ghadiyal Needs Help

But everything is not hunky dory for the gharials in Gandak. Among the prominent challenges for their survival is the Gandak Barrage, as the release of excess water often creates problems for gharials. In March 2017, increased water level in the river, due to opening of gates of the Gandak Barrage, submerged the sandbanks that destroyed the gharial nesting grounds. In rare cases, small gharials have also known to get caught in fishing nets, resulting in their death.



Alsa Yadav gushes with a big smile on his face every time he spots a gharial in the river Gandak, that flows through West Champaran district of Bihar, bordering Nepal.

He tries to take his rickety boat close to the adult gharials (Gavialis gangeticus), enjoying a sun-bath in a chilly wintery afternoon, but they disappear into the deep water. He oars his boat further with the hope of seeing more of the large-sized reptiles in the river. "Contrary to popular belief, they are very shy by nature and escape inside water even on slight disturbance. The river has quite a number of gharials nowadays, which has made it easy to spot them. We are lucky to have them," he says with a sense of pride. Gharials are members of the crocodile family, historically found in various parts of the Indian sub-continent.

The 50-year-old fisherman, with a strong body and bulging muscles, has every reason to feel proud. After all, he has worked tirelessly with conservation experts and administration to protect and bring back the population of gharials from the brink of extinction, in the river Gandak, a transnational river between India and Nepal and a tributary of river Ganga.

"We (the fishing community) have played a big role, along with the authorities, to save the reptiles that were in the danger of being hunted down or eggs getting washed away due to sandbank erosion," he said.

"The efforts have paid off as gharials can now be easily spotted in the river because of the increase in their population," he continued, pointing to two sub-adults at the far-end of the river.

Indeed, the population of gharials has witnessed an upward spiral in the Gandak that now houses the second largest population in the country, after the river Chambal (National Chambal Sanctuary) stretch, that covers Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, claim those involved in its conservation.



Ghadiyal has a bulbous snout, and in water it appears like a floating ghada, hence the name.

## A remarkable increase

Based on three surveys done by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) between 2017 and 2018, around 211 gharials of different age-groups are present in the river as compared to merely 15 recorded in 2010.

The WTI conducted three continuous surveys in the entire stretch of the Gandak river in 2017-18. In the survey conducted from February 4-11, 2017, 119 gharials were sighted in the entire stretch of the river. In 2018, two consecutive surveys (February 9-17 and 21-27) documented 148 and 166 gharials, respectively, in the same stretch. Around 40 hatchlings have been sighted in 2018 after the survey, so, experts expect the number to increase this year.

The findings have brought cheer to conservationists as the gharial is a critically endangered species. Endemic to the Indian subcontinent, the gharial is the most aquatic of all extant crocodilians and resides in flowing rivers with deep pools, high sandbanks and good fish stocks.

Its distribution range has shrunk significantly, and currently, it occupies only about two percent of the former range. Old references indicate that the gharial was widespread across the Indian subcontinent, it was common in the Indus river in Pakistan, Gandak river in Nepal (locally known as Narayani), Jumuna river in Uttar Pradesh and Kosi river in Bihar. It was also found in Burma (now Myanmar), Bhutan and Bangladesh. In India, the gharials are now found mainly in Chambal, Girwa, Ghagra and Gandak river basins.

The population has registered a 98 per cent decline between 1946 and 2006, the adult population nosedived, with a 58 per cent reduction across its range in just nine years, starting from 1907. The reasons for the decline have been attributed to over-hunting for skins and trophies, egg collection for consumption, killing for indigenous medicine and excessive and irreversible loss of the species habitats. In such a scenario, presence of the second largest population of the critically endangered gharials in the Gandak river becomes important for conservation of the species.



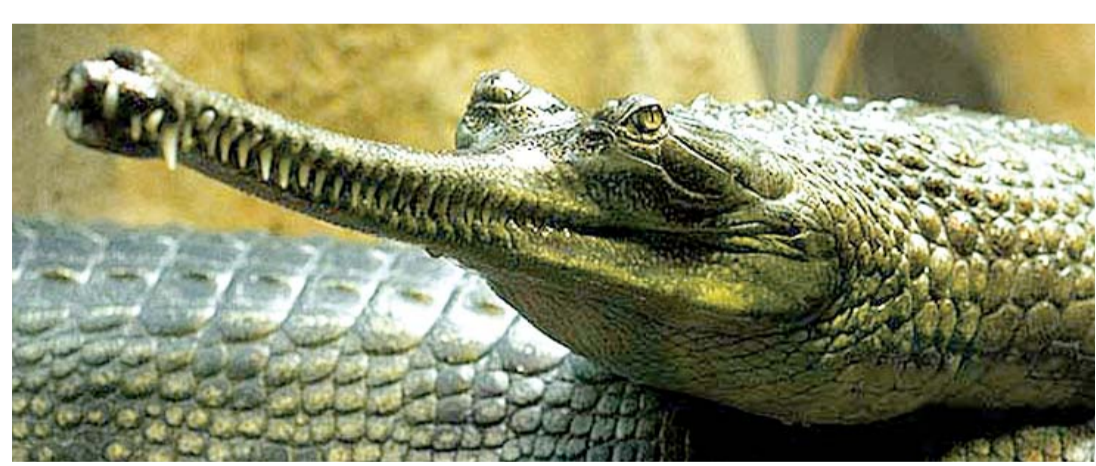
## Camp Fire Girls Day

Camp Fire Girls Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the spirit of exploration, leadership and service that has defined the organisation for over a century. It honours the incredible growth, amazing achievements, and valuable contributions of young people who participate in Camp Fire. This incredible movement started way back when it was set up to provide girls with amazing outdoor experiences and skill-building activities, and it was a huge success! These experiences shape our youth by fostering independence, teamwork, and a love for environment.



## The Gharial Reinforcement project

"Despite available knowledge about gharial population in the Gandak, little effort was made to document and implement conservation measures until the survey supported by WTI and other conservation organisations documented presence of about 15 gharials in the Indian stretch of the river in 2010 and proposed conservation measures including strengthening of the remnant population," said Samir Kumar Sinha, the head of Species Recovery Division, WTI. The work for the conservation started in 2014 when WTI and Bihar Forest Department jointly started the Gharial Reinforcement Project in the river Gandak. Around 30 captive-born and reared gharials from the Sanjay Gandhi Jaivik Udyan (Patna Zoo) were released in the Gandak, followed by post-release monitoring. Six months after their release, monitoring results found 60 percent (18 out of 30) of the released gharials surviving in the wild. The team also spotted several gharials



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## #WILD



## The need for Conservation Policies

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"There has to be a change in the policy level from the top and authorities must discuss with wildlife experts before releasing water from the barrage as often the nesting sites get destroyed." The nests should be shifted to a higher ground before the water is released. We have also submitted a proposal to the Bihar government to declare the stretch of the river Gandak as Conservation Reserve because it also houses endangered species of turtles and dolphins, apart from gharials.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## #READING

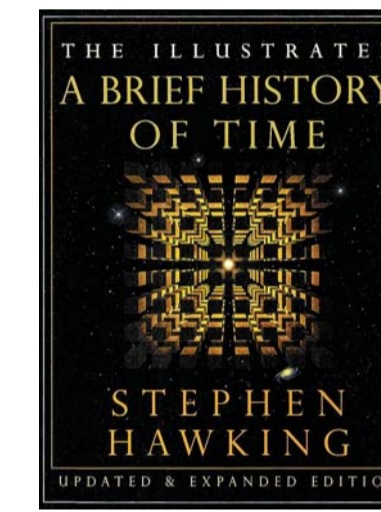
# Notoriously Hard-to-Finish Books

But if you can't finish it, don't feel too bad!

Certain books are better known for being hard-to-finish rather than widely read. While taking the time to sit down and work through a difficult book can be a big task, the rewards for doing so are often great. Furthermore, the experience of absorbing great literature can be a prize in and of itself. Today, we'll look at some famously difficult books, and why you should read them, anyway.

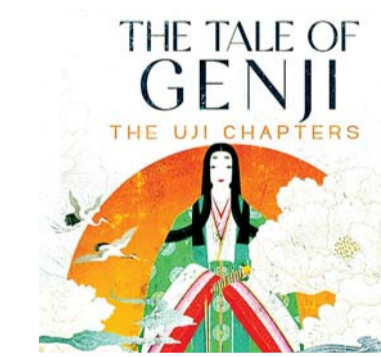


## A Brief History of Time



Stephen Hawking's bestselling book on cosmology dives into the history of human understanding of the Universe, explains our current models for how everything works, and discusses the areas where physics is going in an accessible and witty manner. While covering some esoteric topics, the book famously contains only a single mathematical equation,  $E = mc^2$ . Despite selling 25 million copies, the book is the namesake for the Hawking Index, a not entirely scientific measure of how much of a book people will read before quitting.

## The Tale of Genji



Authored by Murasaki Shikibu, this is a story exploring the lives of the members of the Japanese Imperial Court and has a claim to being the first novel ever written. Tracing the fall of a prince as he is demoted to a member of the common rabble, the book gives us an in-depth look at a world long vanished. The book not only provides an inside account of classical Japan but also a sense of how the medium of the novel has evolved over the last thousand years.

## One Hundred Years of Solitude

The multi-generational story of the Buendia family of Macondo, Colombia, penned by Gabriel Garcia Márquez, has sold 50 million copies and can be read in dozens of languages. It is considered the masterpiece of its author and one of the best works of literature to come out of Latin America. The book has a complex storyline and is open to several interpretations of its central themes. However, the book has earned its praise for a reason. Pulitzer Prize winner, William Kennedy, went so far as to say it should be "required reading for the entire human race."

## Ulysses

A classic of modernist literature that follows a man around Dublin on a typical day, Ulysses by James Joyce is one of the go-to examples of a literary masterpiece that is terribly difficult to read while also being held in high regard by those who manage to do it. The richness of the connections between different parts of the text and its allusions to other

works helps give it a sense of wholeness, making the reader feel like they have a connection to places and events that they have only seen through the characters' eyes. But if you can't finish it, don't feel too bad. British author Virginia Woolf, who used stream-of-consciousness herself, got 200 pages in and then decided she couldn't be bothered to get through the rest.

## Catch-22

A novel written by Joseph Heller about a U.S. Army Air Corps bombardier during the Italian campaign in WWII, Catch-22 explores the madness inherent in every bureaucracy, the comedy found inside every tragedy, and the paradoxes that every life includes and cannot be addressed by logic alone. The novel is the direct source for the term 'Catch-22' (a situation in which contradictory rules prevent a resolu-

tion) and the inspiration for the term 'black comedy' (which was first used to describe the novel). The book is famously confusing with opaque language, an extremely non-linear plot, and story elements that alternate between highly grounded, bizarre, and horrific with great speed. It is also hilarious and can help readers come to terms with absurdity and moral grayness in their own lives.

## Les Misérables

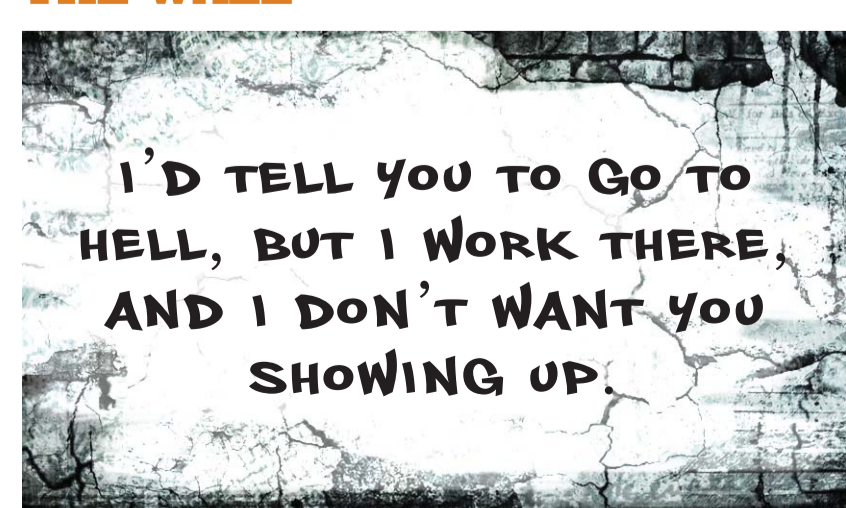
Written by Victor Hugo, this is the tale of Jean Valjean, a group of young revolutionaries, a young girl named Cosette, and a determined policeman, who views the world in black and white, as they navigate life in France as it transitions out of the post-revolutionary era.

The text is a massive 545,925 words, and much of the book is unconnected to the main plot line. These chapters contain discussions on topics such as monasteries, architecture, French history, and the Parisian sewer system. That many choose instead to watch one of the movie versions, which can still be up to five hours long, is unsurprising.

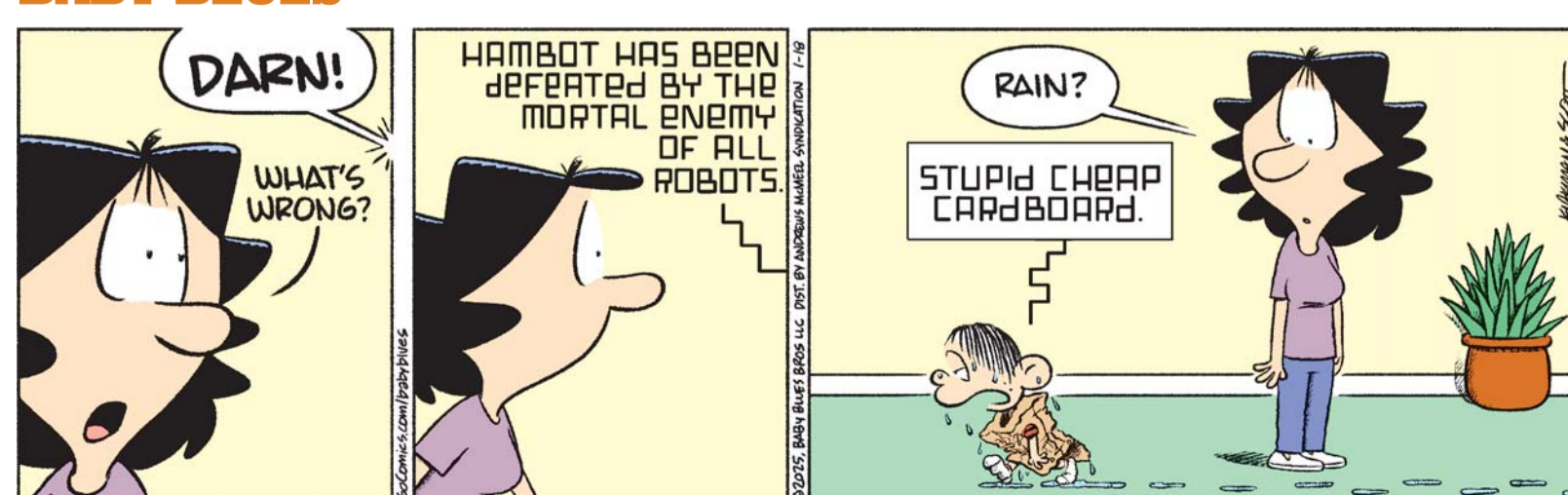
## Les Misérables



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS

