

The Five Turns 100: Remembering the First Five Fives

It started with Ben.

He had an idea to list Five Reasons Not to be Scared of the Monsters Under Your Bed. It was an article to be released on a Friday when REO was just a few weeks old. And it was quite hilarious.

Then, Amy had the idea to try to do something similar the next Friday and thought it would great to keep it going. She told Phill, Phill told it to us and we loved it. And out of this, the REO Friday Five was born. We have tried every week on Friday the last two years to publish a list of five entries that have something in common. Some have been funny. Some have been deeply theological. Some have been sports-related. They all have been an expression of the DNA of Rambling Ever On. A few times we came up short ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) if you are curious) of a weekly Friday Five, but 97% of the time we have succeeded.

And today we celebrate our 100th effort at the Friday Five by looking back on the Five Fives that started it all. All the way back to January and February of 2016. These Five Fives are the pioneers so to speak of this longstanding REO tradition. And we appreciate them very much. And today we acknowledge them and reminisce about our beginnings and how each of these Fives foreshadowed what REO was going to be like, not just on Friday, but all the time. I mean, even the best sitcoms had good clip shows! – Gowdy Cannon

Ben Plunkett's "5 Reasons Not to Be Afraid of the Monster Under the Bed"

[5 Reasons Not to Be Afraid of the Monster Under the Bed](#)

This is what separates Rambling Ever On from other sites out there. Sure, we could spend all of our energy and time writing about spirituality and theology. Or, we could have article after article about music, movies, or current events. Frankly, we aren't interested in limiting ourselves to that standard stuff.

Enter Ben Plunkett. If you have been reading REO for any time at all, you know Ben follows the beat of his own drummer. When others write about the latest political scandal Ben says, "Nope. Not for me." Instead, he delivers some new form of insane genius. Take our very first Five as the perfect example. Who else is going to write with any sense of intelligence or articulation about monsters under the bed? Ben brings wit, humor, and just a dash of absolute madness to his writing and we are all better off for it. The Five on REO got started right and we have Ben Plunkett to thank for that. It is a philosophy that has guided us ever since. – Phill Lytle

Amy Lytle's "Five Steps to Become the BEST Facebook Mother of All Time"

[5 Steps to Become the BEST Facebook Mother of All Time](#)

One of the things I appreciate about REO is the creative and appropriate use of sarcasm. It was the REO staff that convinced me that using irony this way can be an effective way to communicate and not always mean-spirited.

Our very second Five falls into this category. Amy's REO

articles have been some of our best-performing articles based on the number of views and this one is no different. Because I think people appreciate the humorous take on the reality of how people use Facebook. We have seen many other articles follow suit, including a whole Five on trash talk, but this was the one that set the tone. Superbly done and still relevant (and probably will be for years to come), we are very proud of this entry into our annals. – Gowdy Cannon

Collaborative “Five Romantic Movies Even Men Can Love”

[*Five Romantic Movies Even Men Can Love*](#)

This was the first collaborative Five. Often, we come up with a topic that many of our contributors care about and we figure the best way to make those articles work is to make it a team effort. As REO is primarily a male-driven website, we knew that Valentines Day was not going to be high on our priority list. But, we did not want to completely ignore it, so we opted to write about movies with a strong romantic theme that even men might enjoy. It was a perfect fit for what we do and it was the first of many collaborative articles on REO. It was also the beginning of REO trying to make our reader’s lives better – something we continue to do even to this day. You’re welcome. – Phill Lytle

Gowdy Cannon’s “Five Times Harry Potter Made Me Reflect On Real Life”

[*Five Times Harry Potter Made Me Reflect On Real Life*](#)

This was the fourth Five and offered a look at some wise and biblical advice from the pages of the magnum opus of J.K. Rowling. The Harry Potter book series is a truly classic children's fantasy line of literature. And it's more than just the storyline itself that makes it great. Much more. It is multi-faceted and many-layered in its meaning and depth. It does not take a lot of study to show that there are actually quite a bit of Christian truths that can be gleaned from its pages. Mega-Potterite, Gowdy Cannon, has delved into its pages many times. Here he lays out five great truths he has learned from Harry Potter (the book series not necessarily the character). In *Five Times Harry Potter Made Me Reflect on Real Life* he does exactly that. He considers five very insightful quotes from various characters that taught him certain lessons about life in our real-life Muggle world. We learn from the faithful House Elf, Dobby, about greatness and goodness; from Harry's adoptive father, Sirius Black (in two quotes), about judging the true quality of a person and the true face of evil; from the great and inimitable wizard, Albus Dumbledore, on the surest way to wreak damage upon an individual: indifference and neglect; and from best friends Ron Weasley and Harry Potter on the nature of repentance and forgiveness.

– Ben Plunkett

Phill Lytle's "Five Words and Phrases That Need to Go Away"

[*Five Words and Phrases that need to go away.*](#)

I confess this is one of my favorite articles and one of the finest things we have done in my opinion. The content is exceptional on its own—clever and with a pulse on our culture's extremely odd popular jargon. To paraphrase Ben, I cotton especially to the one about "Loving On" people because in the American Church this gets said all time. And it keeps

getting said even though Phill and others—including some popular comedians—have called it out. It's like a massive freight train of geeky Christianese. But Phill's take on it is the best I've seen. And the conversation about "it is what it is" makes me cry laughing. It's like a modernized Abbott and Costello routine.

But beyond the writing, the illustrations are LOL funny, so much that I've laughed while reading it for the 4th or 5th time. The simplicity of the way the searing logic is presented...the faces of the "men"...the exploding head...it's all gold.

I bet I've referenced this article in public as much or more than any other in REO history. And we reference it yet again today, as being a Five that let the world know how acute our web site's humor was going to be. – Gowdy Cannon

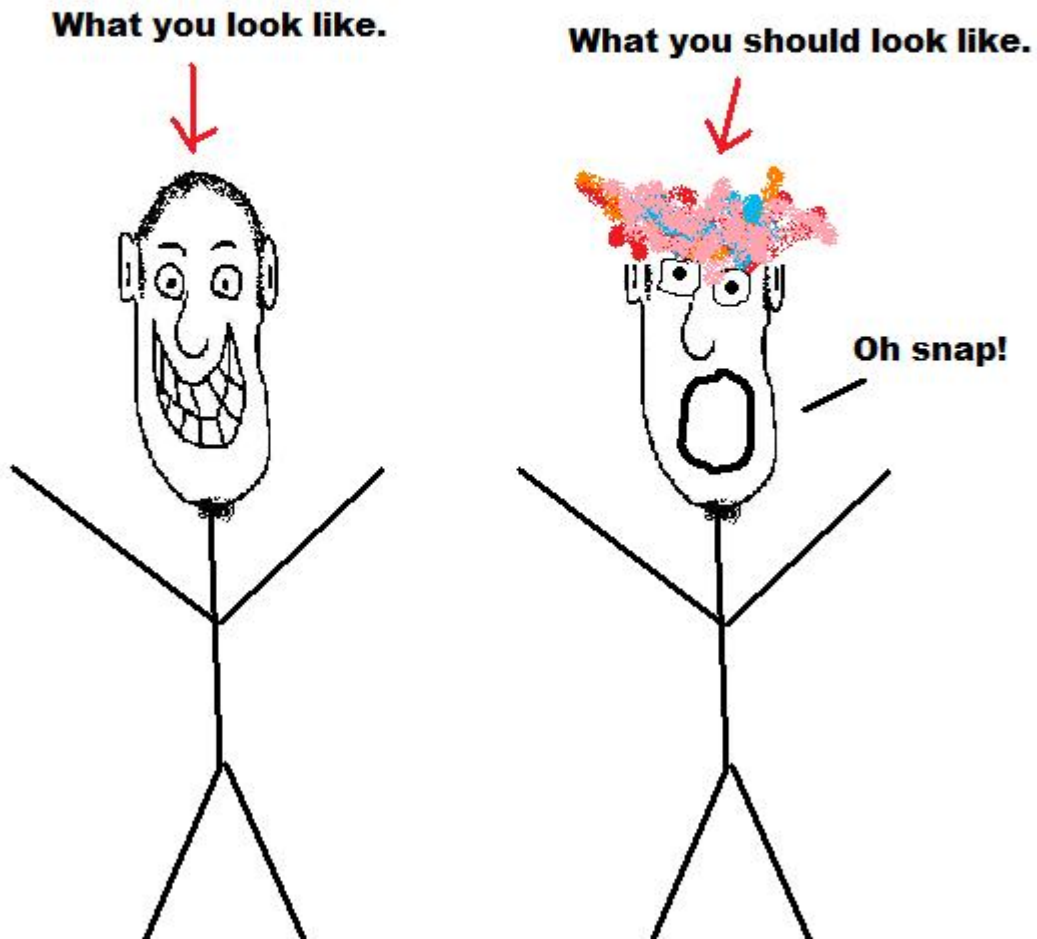
Five Words and Phrases that need to go away.

There are plenty of things that people say that are dumb, annoying or inane. I will focus on five of the biggest offenders. To facilitate understanding, I have included cutting edge pictures and illustrations.

To the list!

1. Literally. Here is an example: "I was so mad my head literally exploded!" No. Your head did not literally explode. If it had literally exploded, we would not have to listen to you abuse and destroy the English language. Do us all a favor and literally stop talking. Forever.

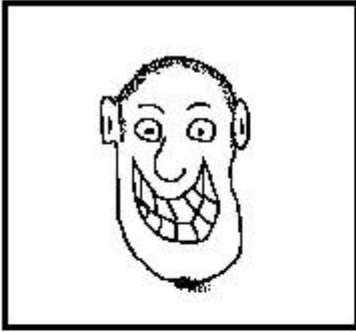
"My head literally exploded!"



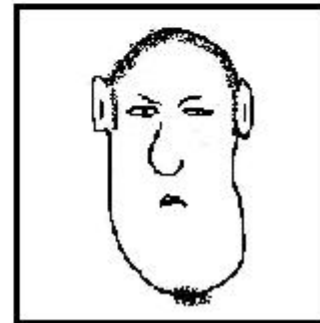
2. Hump Day. Wednesday is also known as Hump Day. Stop and think about that for just a second. Hump Day.

Hump Day? HUMP DAY!

And people say that like it's a good thing! How is it possible for a day that is called "Hump" to be good? It's not. The word hump brings all sorts of unpleasant and unsavory images to mind. Why would we intentionally equate the middle day of the work-week with anything unpleasant?



It's HUMP DAY!!!

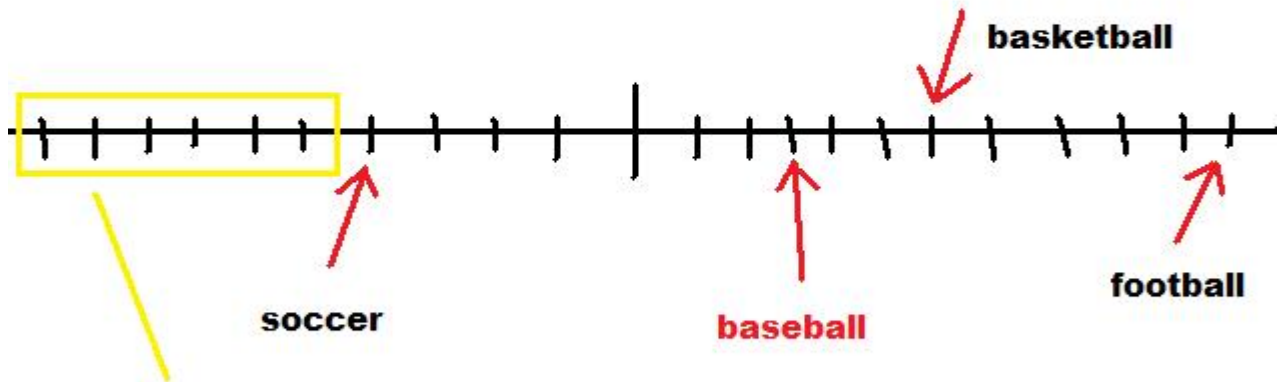


3. We need to love on them. In an effort to keep this as clean and as family friendly as possible, I am going to avoid really dissecting this one. You see it, right? Why have we decided that saying “We need to love them” is so much less effective than to “love on them”? As for me and my house, there shall be no “loving on” anyone. We will love, show love, be loving, act with love, and above all share love. And all of those things will be done to and for others, not on them.



4. **I could care less.** If you can care less, then that means you actually care at least a little bit for whatever it is that you are talking about. Let me provide you with a very simple visual representation of what you are saying and what you should be saying. First, we will look at "I could care less":

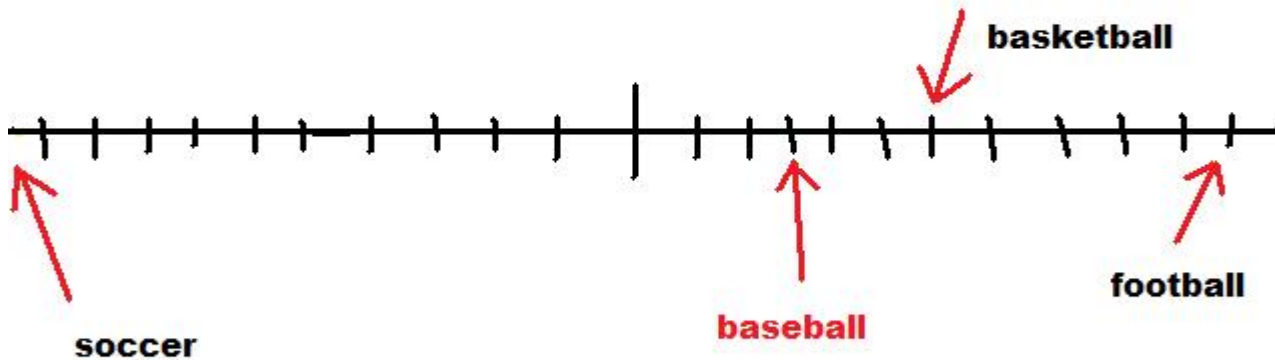
The Line of Caring: A Visual Guide



If you say, "I could care less about soccer" then you are actually saying you care about soccer on some level. Look at all the room on The Care Line to the left of soccer.

What you should say in this situation is "I could not care less" about soccer. Let's go to the chart!

The Line of Caring: A Visual Guide



Clearly, on this line, your care about soccer is as low as it can go. When you use the phrase, "I could not care less" you are telling the world that you cannot go any lower on the care line than you are right now.

5. It is what it is. It's either lazy or apathetic. Or both. Too often, we try to sum up a really complex issue or conversation with this nifty little catch-all phrase. It is nonsensical in that it is so mind-numbingly obvious. Of course IT is what It is. What else could it be? It's like saying "The ocean is the ocean" or "Blue is blue" or "this pizza is pizza."

Sample conversation below:

Human Being 1: Man, things are really difficult for me right now.

Human Being 2: It is what it is.

HB1: What is it?

HB2: It's what it is.

HB1: Why is that?

HB2: Because it just is.

HB1: Oh, is it?

HB2: Yes, it is.

HB1: I don't think it is what it is. I think it's not what it is.

HB2: That's not possible.

HB1: Why not?

HB2: Because it is what it is.

HB1: But what if it doesn't want to be what it is anymore?

HB2: It can't just decide that. It has to be what it is at all times.

HB1: But what if what it is is stupid?

HB2: It's not.

HB1: Are you sure? There are a lot of stupid things out there.

HB2: I'm sure. It is what it is and that is enough for me.

HB1: Fine. Does that mean it's not what it's not?

HB2: What?

HB1: Exactly.

HB2: This conversation is boring and dumb.

HB1: It is what it is.

HB2: You are the worst.

The End.

The "It is what it is" flowchart

