

Here's What I Would Say

Prefaces, Caveats, and Hedges:

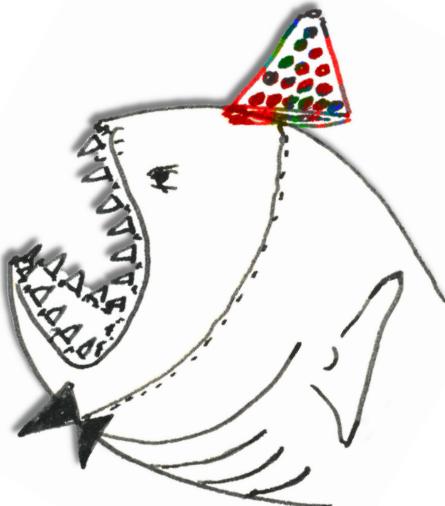
An Illustrated Inventory!



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mark@curiousimage.com





FEATURED SECTIONS



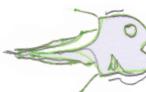
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INITIAL UTTERANCES



The first line of attack.



Say something. Say anything!



Substance? Who cares! (No one.)



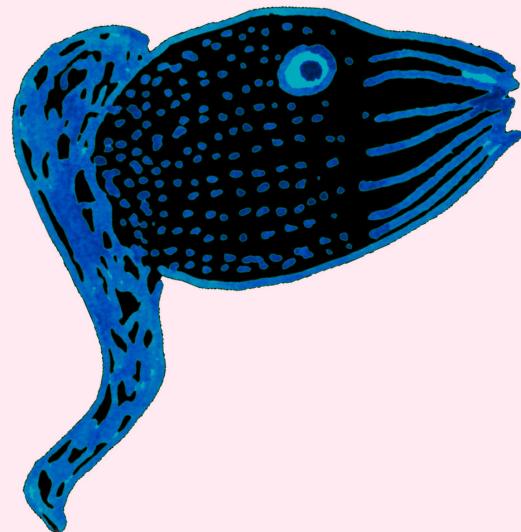
The more generic, the better.

Right

Well

OK

So



Ah



I see





Go figure

You may also like, in Initial Utterances:

Ah-ha

Boy

But

Gee

Got it

Ha

Interesting

'K

Man

Oh

Sure

Wha'd'y'know

Wow

*Plus, a variety of inaudible breaths,
vowel-less consonants, and clicks,
including:*

Ahhhh

mmm-hm

Grrrr

Hmm

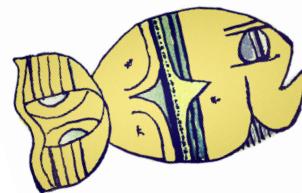
Mmm

Ooo

Ttt

Uh

Umm



TIMING AND TRANSITIONS



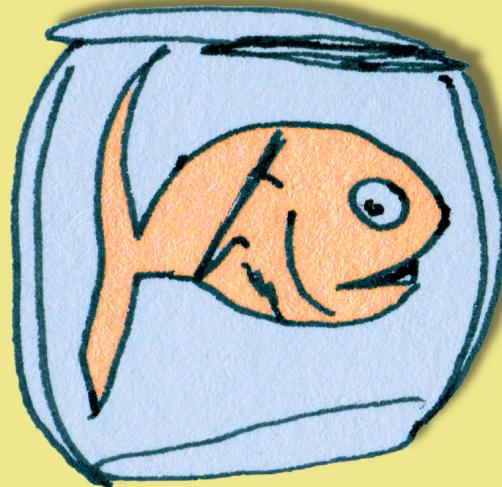
No clue? No problem.



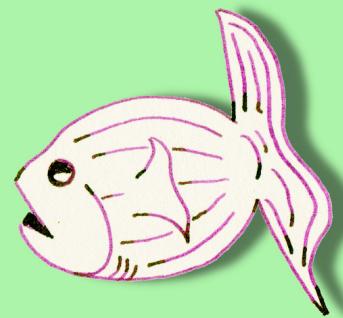
Craft your opinion **as** you speak.



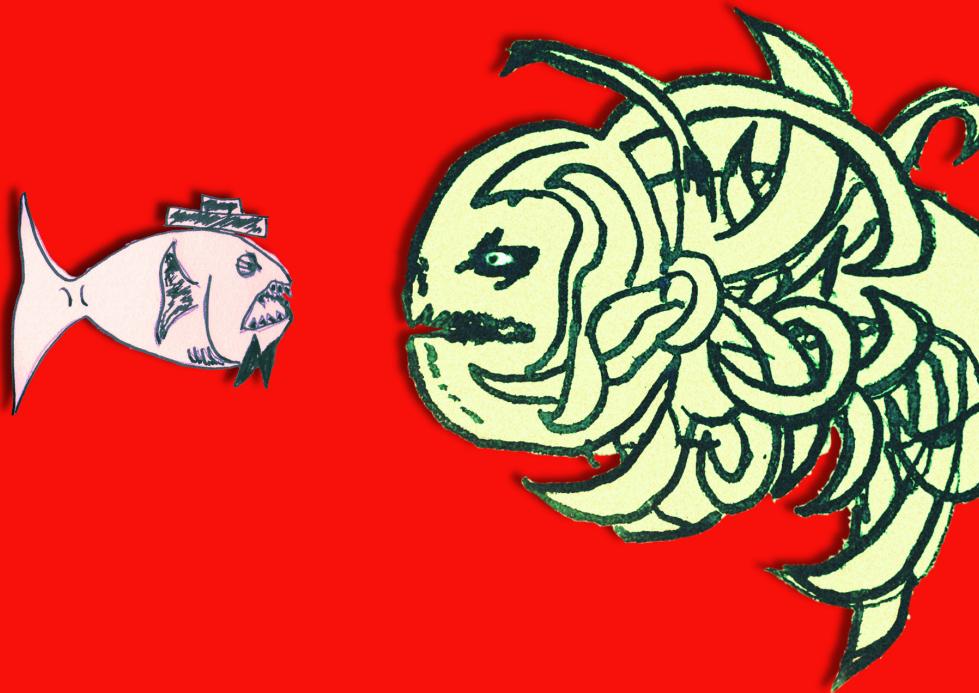
Fake it for now; substance can wait.



Before I begin



Apologies in advance



Now that you mention it



If I may



Anyway

Similar turns of phrase, in Timing and Transitions:

Alright

Before anything else

Before I forget

Excuse me

For the last time

For the moment

For the time being

Have you heard

I neglected to ask until now

I wanted you to hear from me

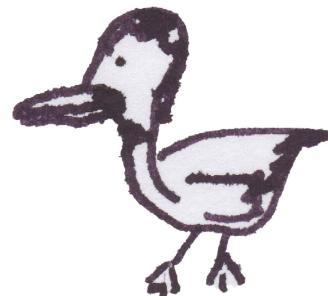
I'll cut to the chase

In the meantime

Let's begin

Now

One last thing



Pardon me

Shall we

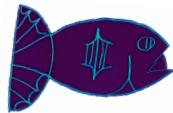
Speaking of which

Thank you in advance

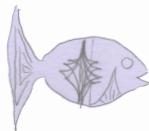
Unless you've already heard

Wait until you hear

MUTUAL AGREEMENT



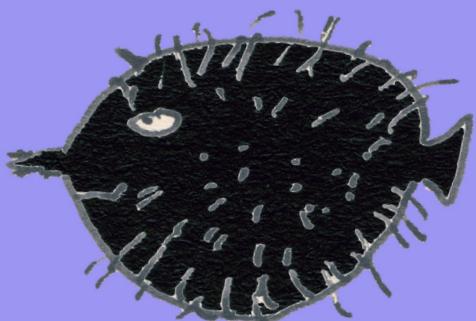
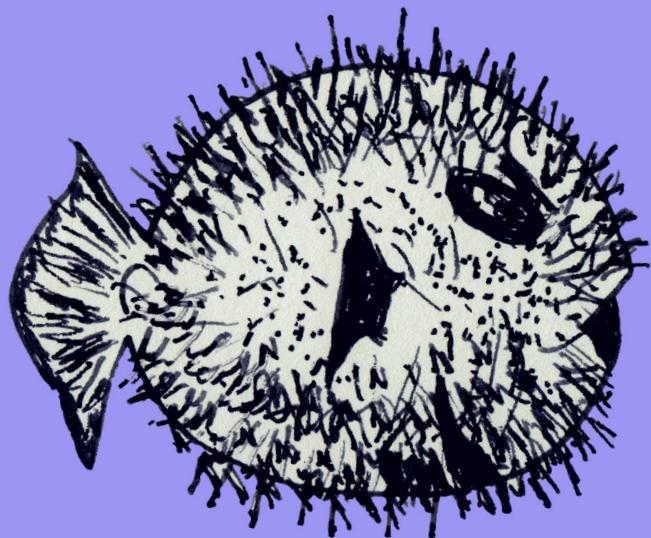
Flattery will get you everywhere!



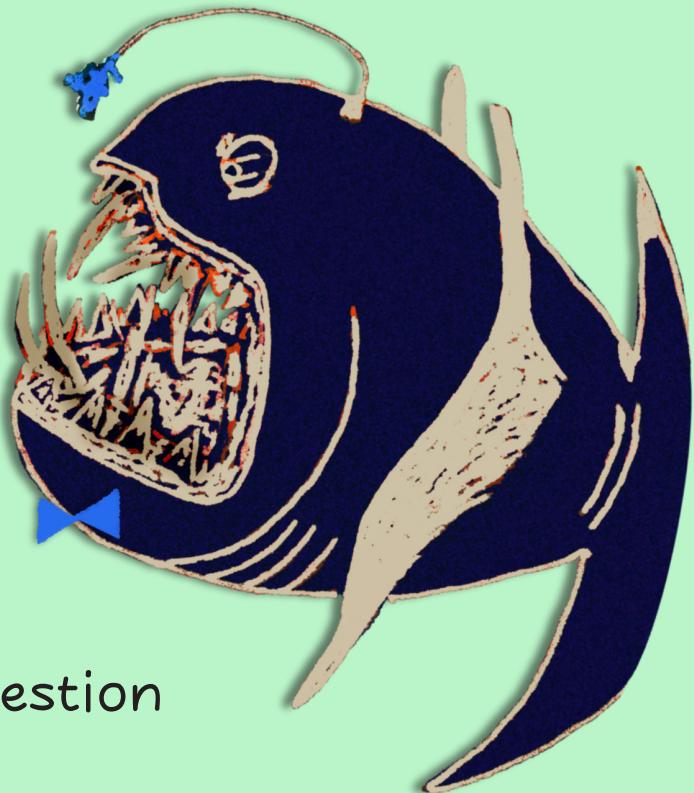
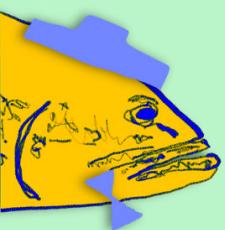
Tell them you agree.



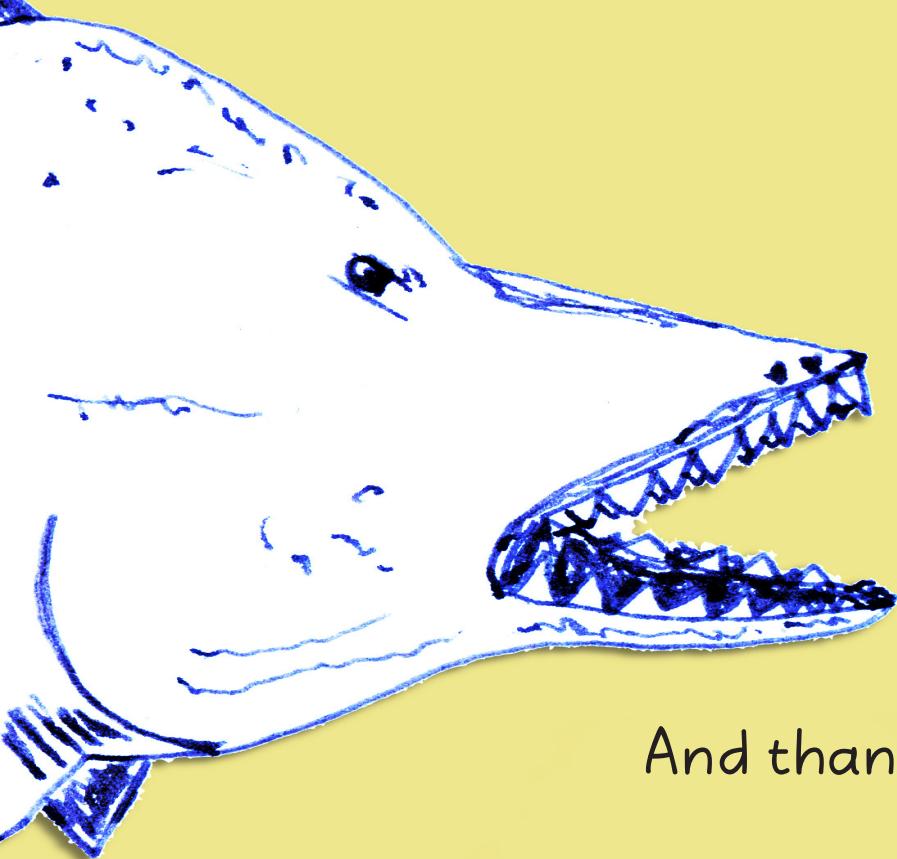
...Whether you agree or not.



You're absolutely right

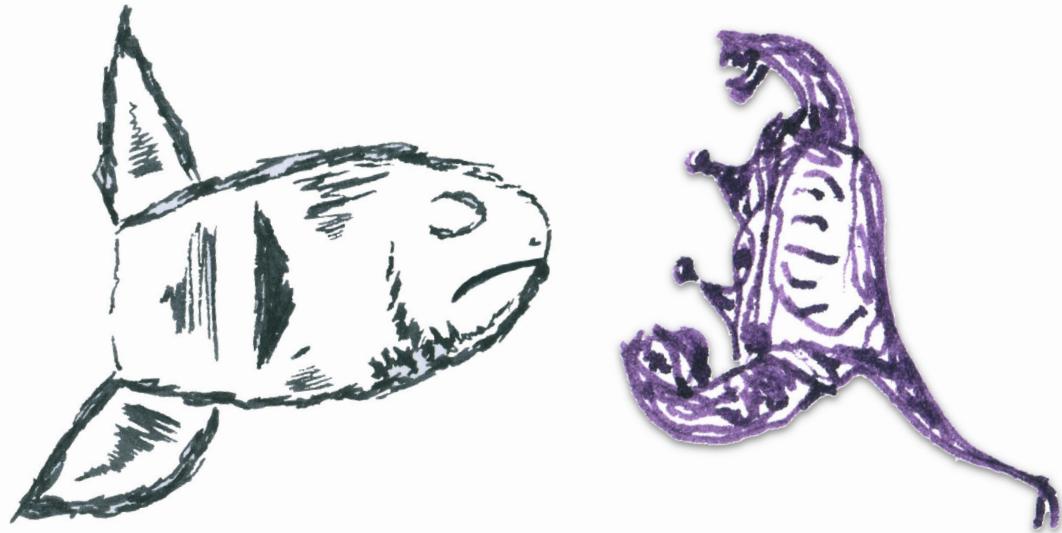


That's a great question



And thank you for asking

I couldn't have said it better myself

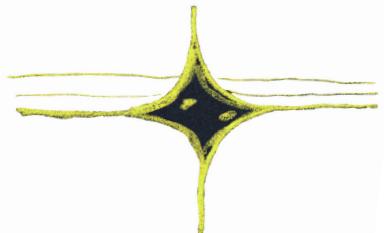


I don't disagree

And also, in Mutual Agreement:

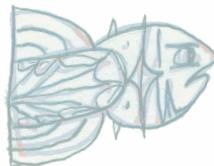
Absolutely
Additionally
And also
Brilliant
Definitely
Excellent point
For sure
Good question
Great idea
I couldn't agree more
I'd like to add
I'm glad you asked
Indeed
Isn't it?
Makes sense
Maybe

Perfect
Perhaps
Possibly
Right?
Smart thinking
So True
Thank you for that
That's right
Unless you disagree
Very right
Well said
Well, that's the question
Yes
Yes, and
You're right

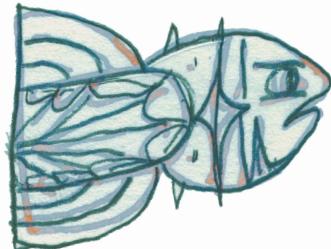


EMOTIVE PREFACES

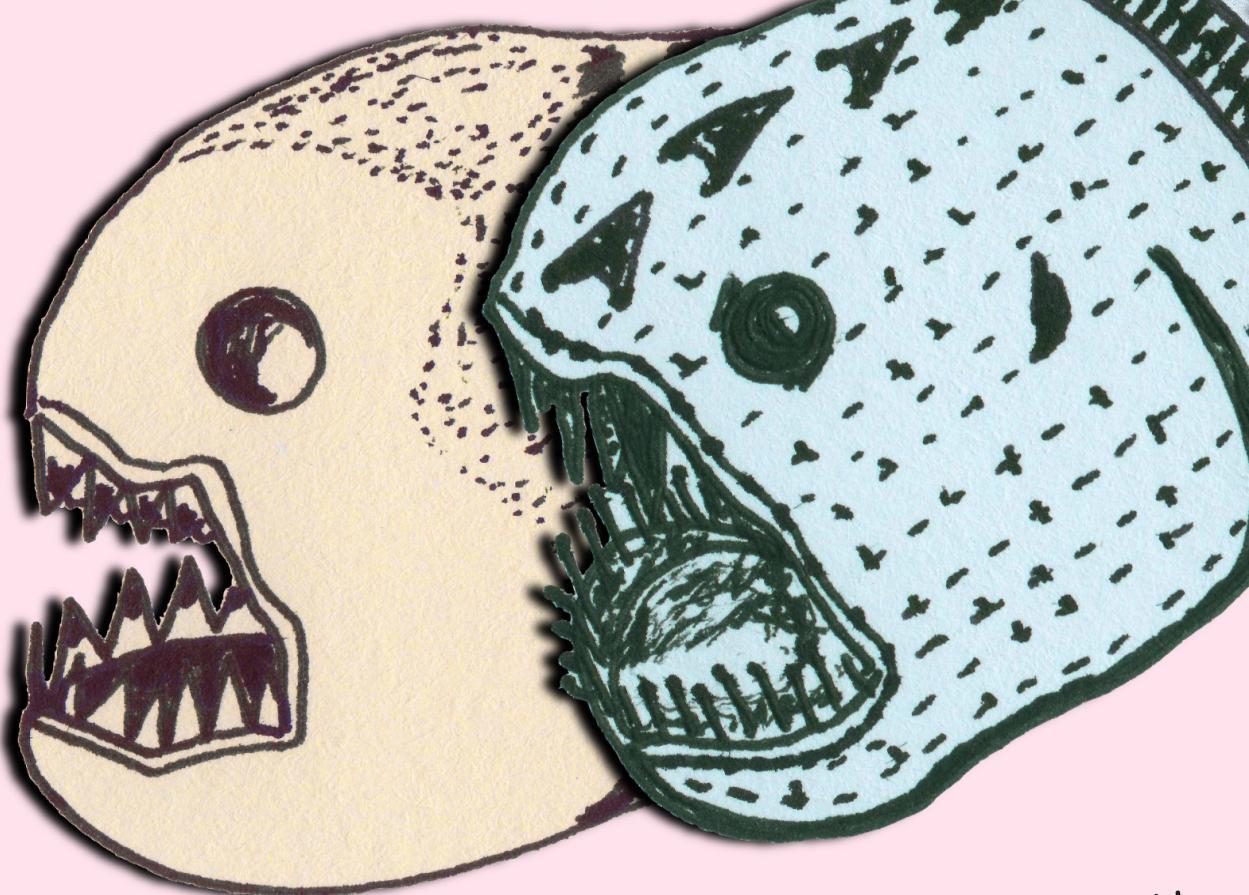
 Are you a robot?



... No, you are not a robot.



Showcase some empathy.



I hate to admit it

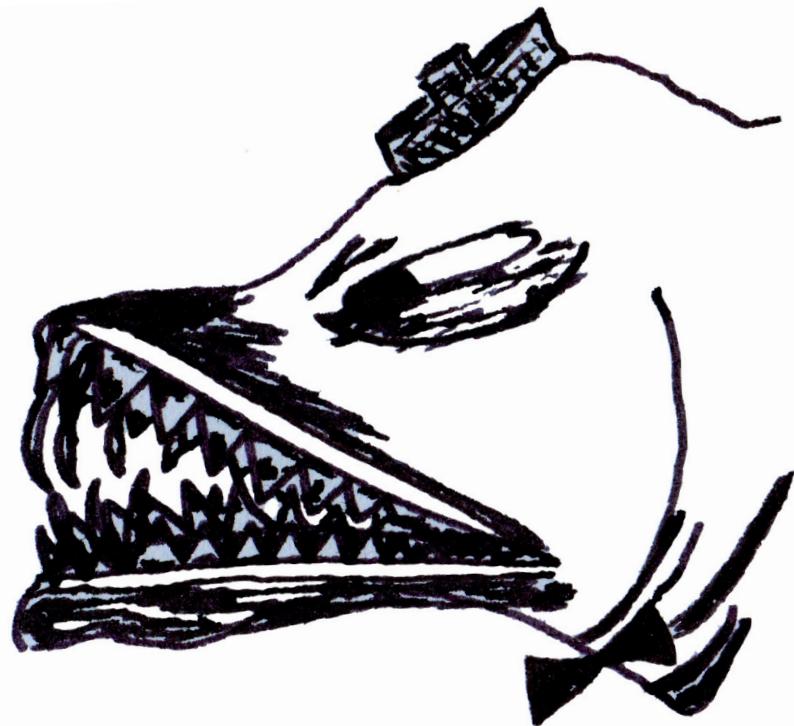
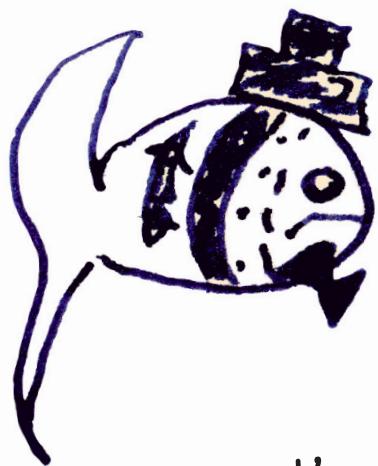
I regret to inform you



Isn't it awful?



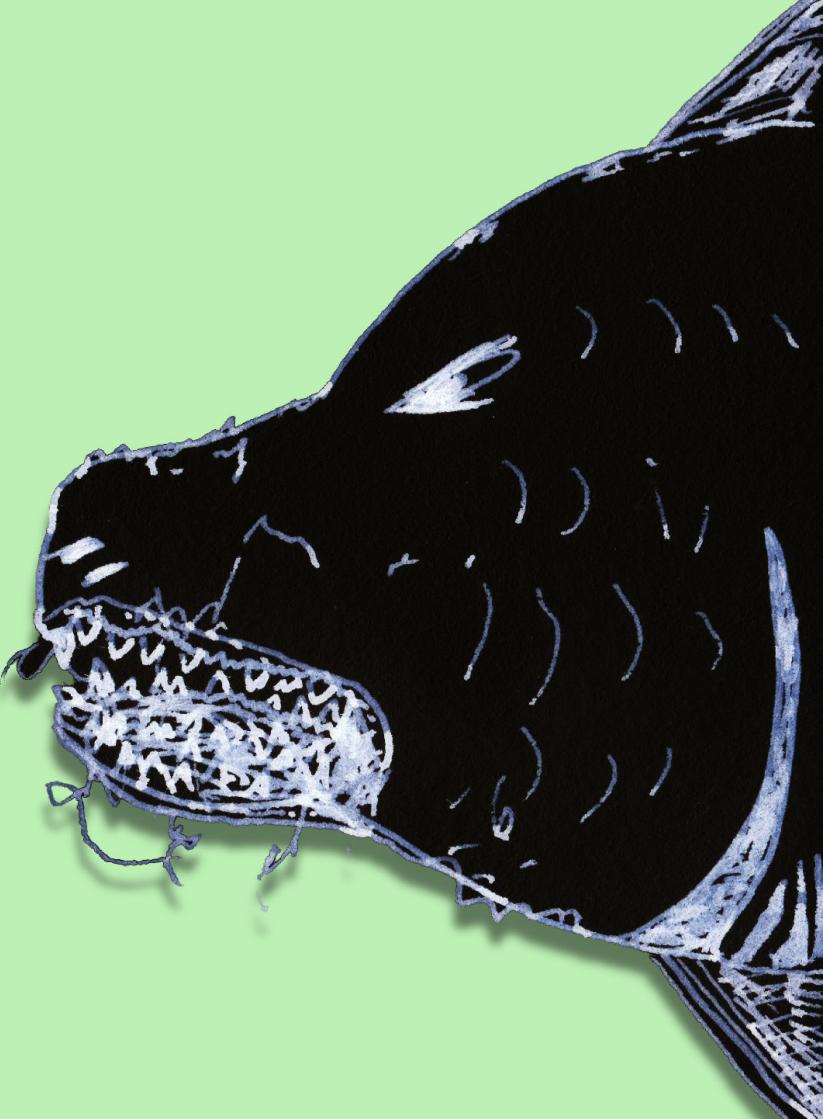
Isn't it funny?



I'm excited to announce



I'd be remiss





Alas

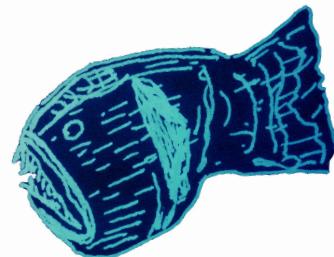
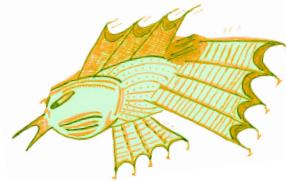


It's sad, really

We're keen to suggest, in Emotive Prefaces:

I don't mean to offend
I don't want to hide the ball
I find it odd
I hate to ask
I'm happy to introduce
I'm hesitant to mention
I'm not racist
I'm not sorry
I'm reluctant
I'm sorry
I'm sorry if
I'm sorry that
I'm sorry to

I'm sorry to be the one to tell you
I'm sorry to have to tell you
It kills me
It never ceases to amaze me
It's fascinating
It's funny
It's interesting
You'll find this



Conditional Caveats (part 1): Credibility, Veracity and Stature



Be accurate without being precise.



Set yourself up to win.



...Even when you don't deserve it.

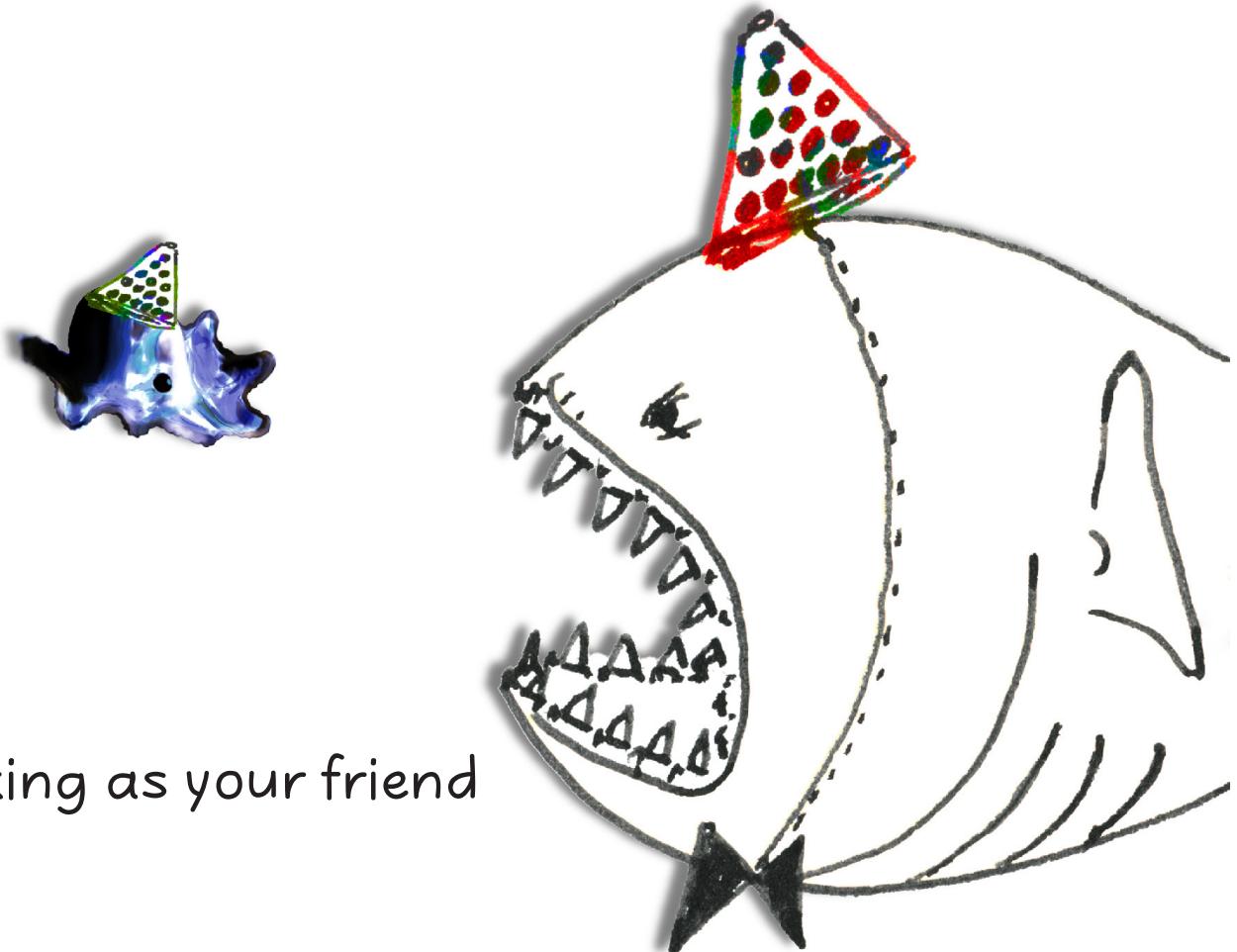


Keep the **credibility**. Keep the **credit**!



For what it's worth

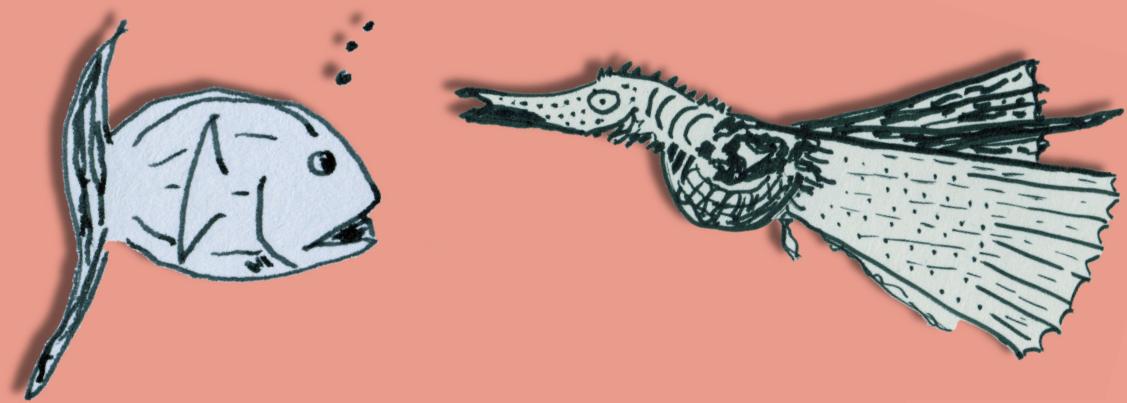




Speaking as your friend



Speaking as a professional



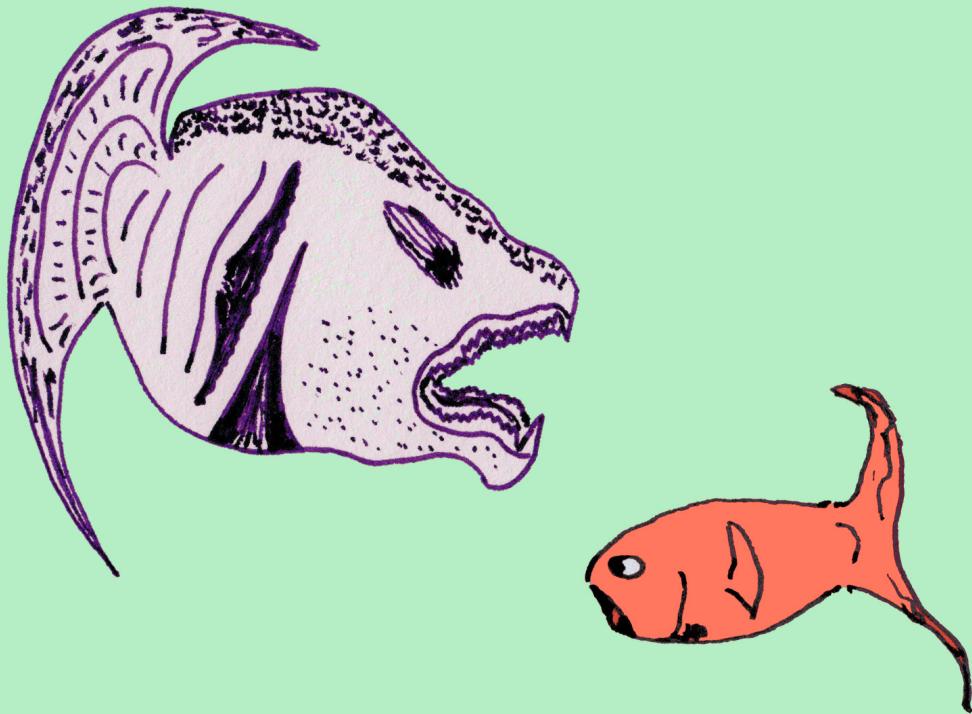
This might not be a good idea



I could be wrong

I'm no expert





Trust me

Popular Conditional Caveats:

Actually

Assuming that's true

Based on the facts

Based on what I know

Can I tell you the truth?

Candidly

Correct me if I'm wrong

Frankly

From my point of view

From where I stand

I can't say for certain

I don't need to tell you

I don't really know

I don't want to shoot from the hip

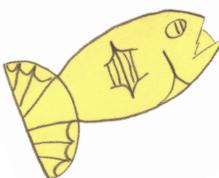
I never do this

If I didn't know better

If I were in charge

If I'm being honest

If it matters



If it were up to me

It depends

It's anyone's guess

It's really up to you

It's your decision

My personal point of view

My two cents

No one knows for sure

Not having all the details

Not that it makes any difference

Personally

Preliminarily

This could be stupid

This is probably nothing

Truthfully

Unless I'm wrong

Until we know more

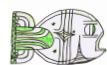
Without all the information

Your guess is as good as mine

Conditional Caveats (part 2): Supernatural Hedges



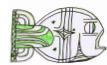
Technically speaking:



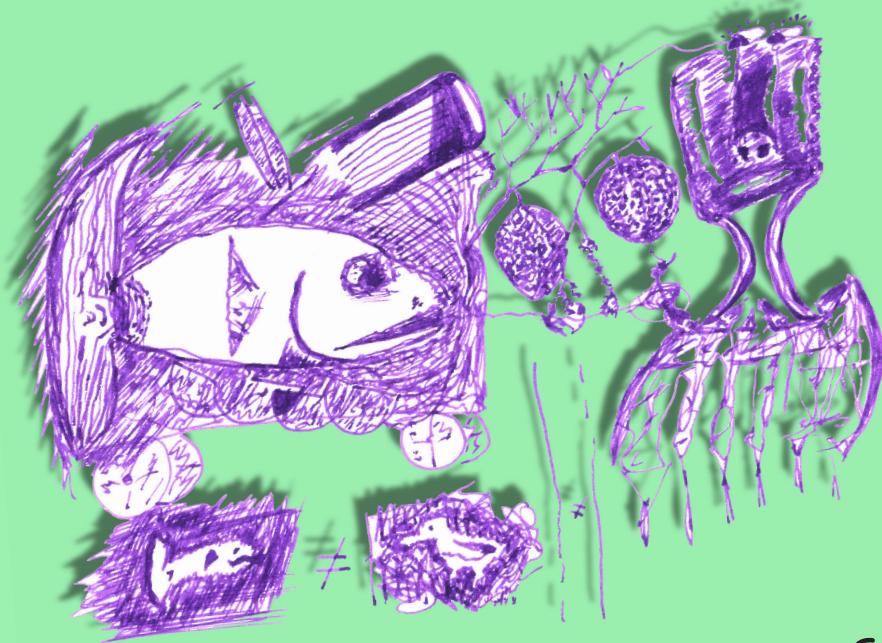
Nothing is actually in your control.



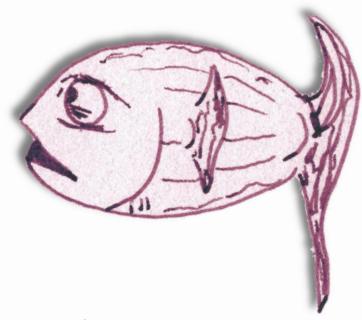
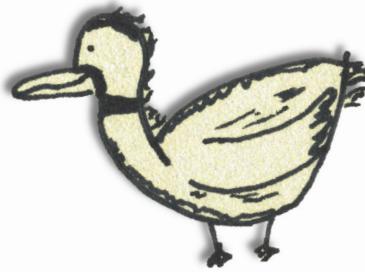
Freewill is an illusion. Fault is a myth.



So how could you ever be to blame?



Fingers crossed

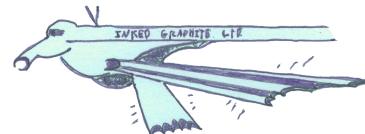


Knock on wood

Give these Supernatural Hedges a spin:



I wish
If the heavens smile upon us
If the stars align
If we catch lightning in a bottle
If we're lucky
God forbid
God willing
Let's hope
Let's pray
With any luck
Wouldn't it be nice



RELATIVITY AND SCOPE

Use these to:



Cast the widest net.

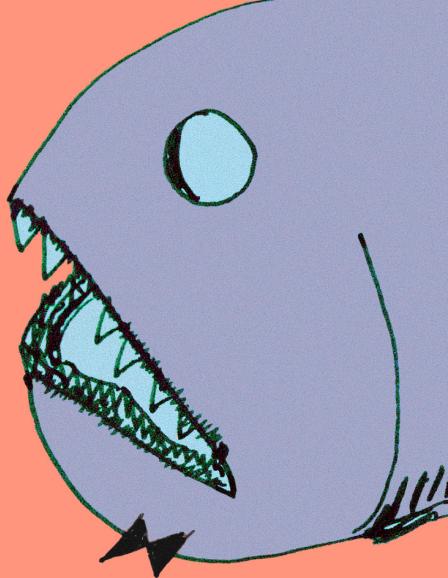


Mitigate risk exposure.

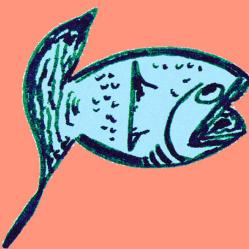


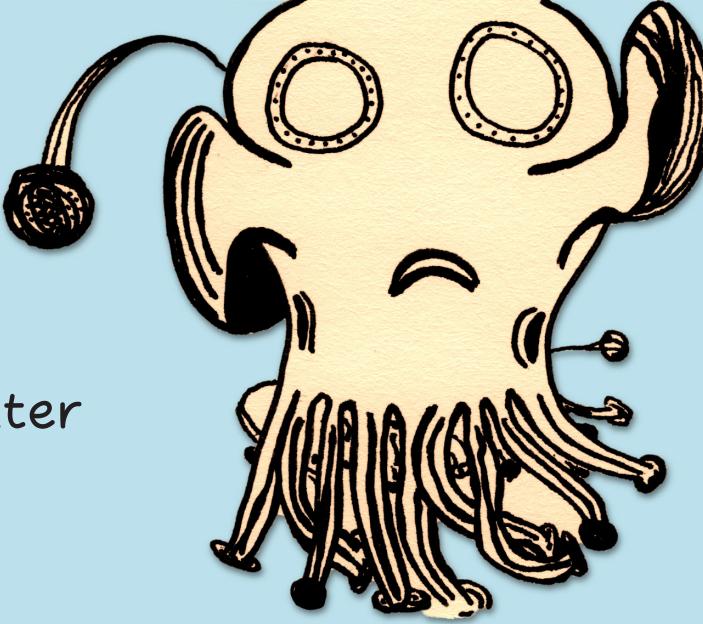
Hint at a wealth of insight.

In a vacuum

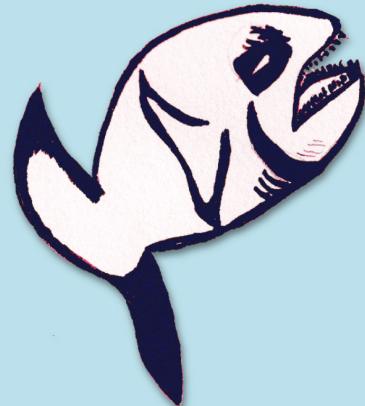


Relatively speaking

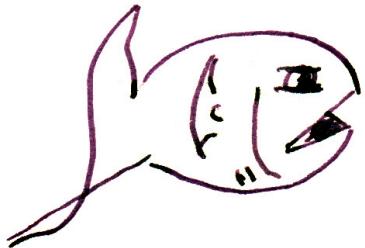




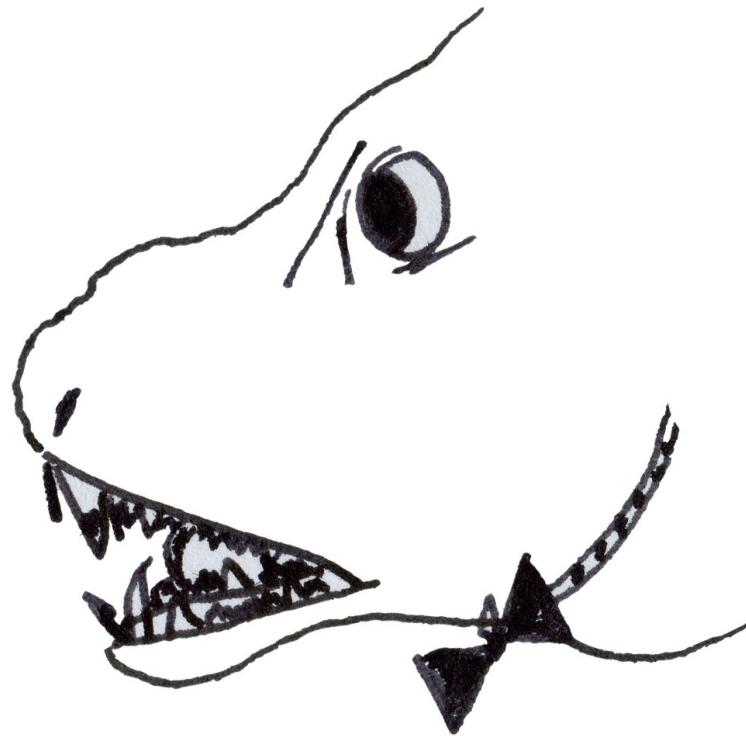
Sooner or later



Under normal
circumstances



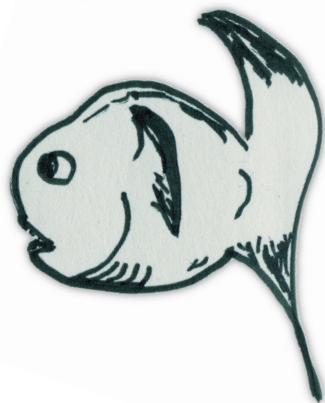
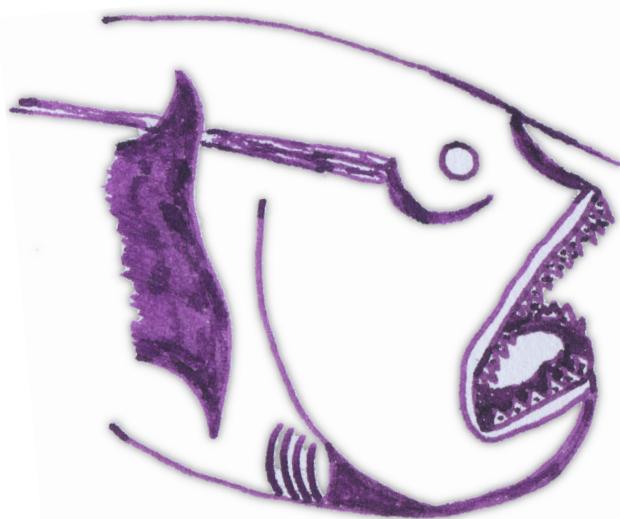
All things considered



All things being equal

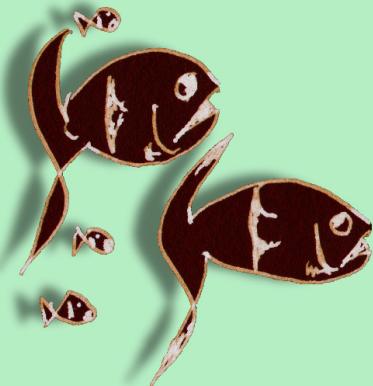
What it all boils down to

When all is said and done





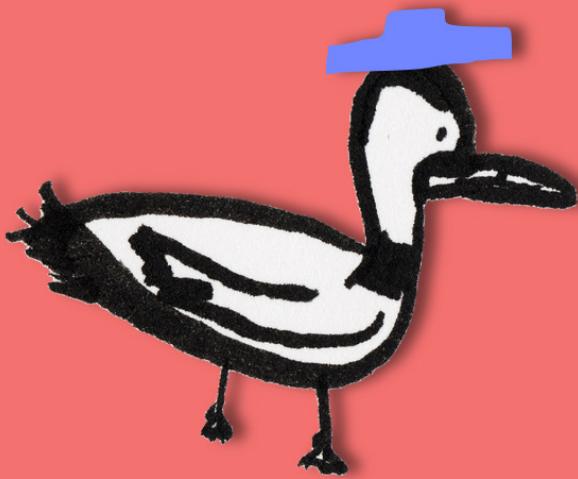
At the end of the day



What's most important



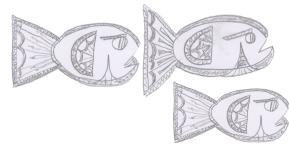
Ultimately



Suitable substitutions, in Relativity and Scope:

Anything's possible
At least
At most
At some point
Best case scenario
Eventually
Figuratively speaking
From 30,000 feet
If all else fails
If anything
If it's apples and oranges
If nothing else
If you look at the big picture

Is it possible
Literally
More than anything else
No matter what
On our deathbeds
Short of anything else
What we're left with
When the dust settles
When we come up for air
When we look back
Worst case scenario



META-QUALIFIERS

Can't be bothered to craft a single bespoke dependent clause about anything else?

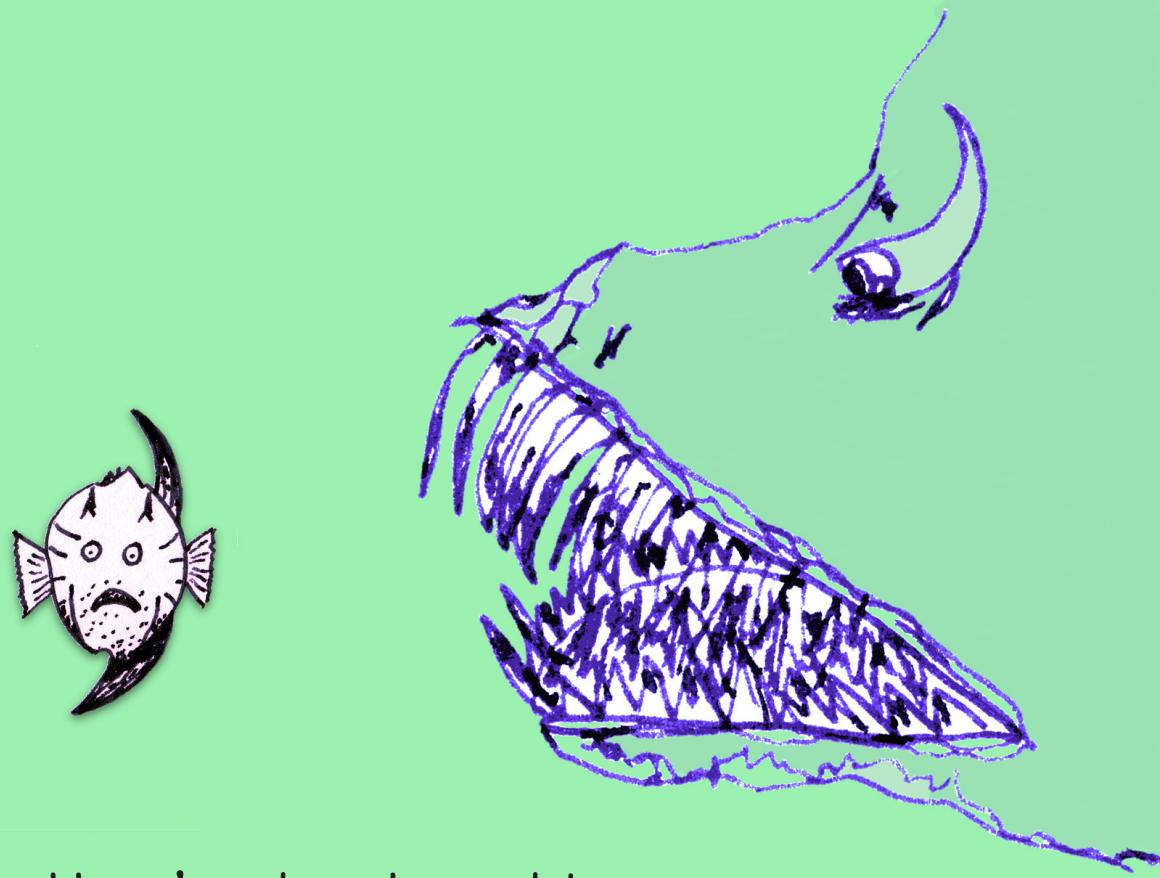
 State the obvious. (And be redundant.)

 Go Meta: Talk about talking!

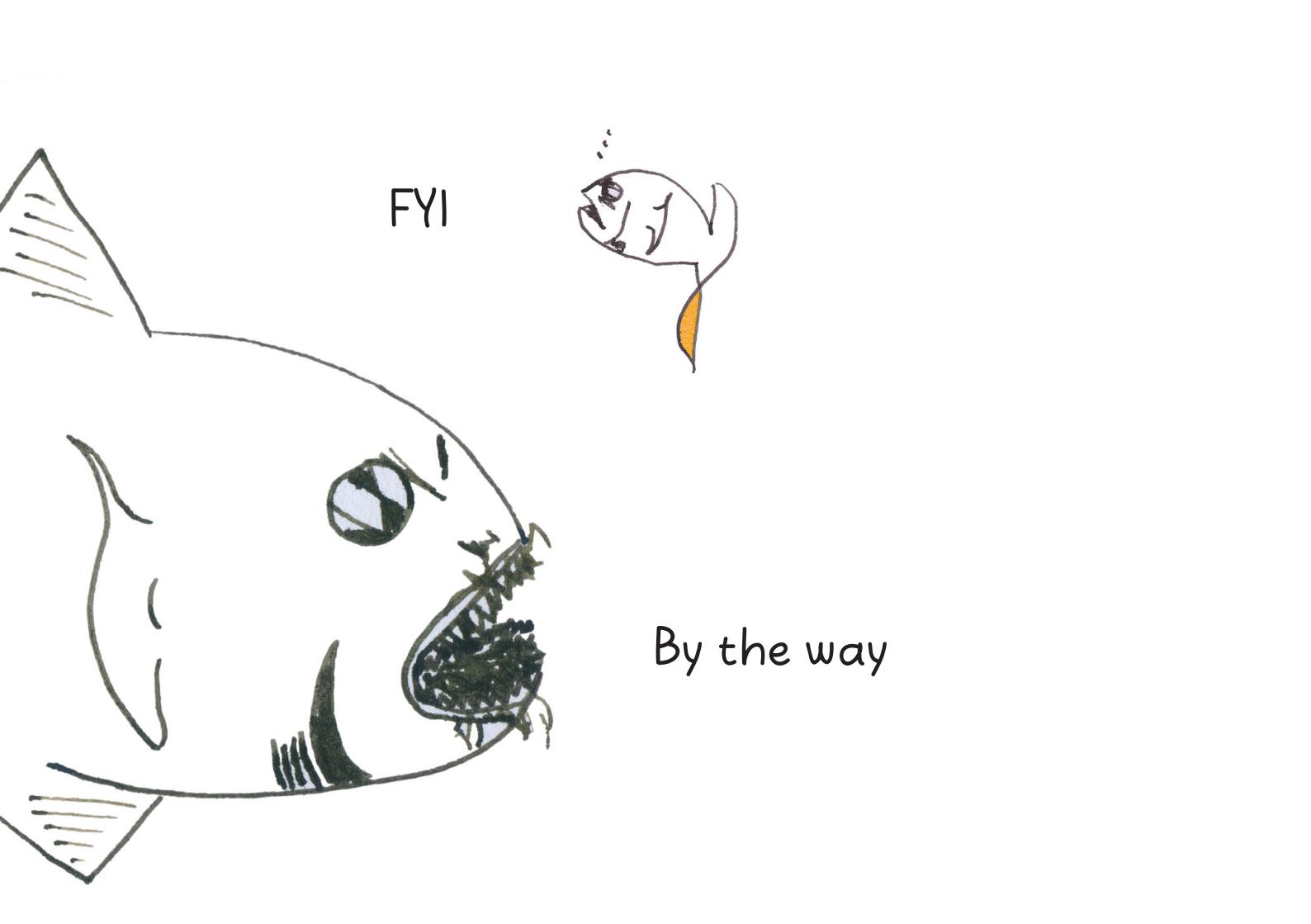
 Sound the trumpets.

or...

 Stall for extra time.



Here's what I would say



FYI

By the way

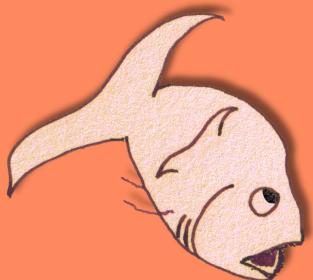
Let me ask you a question



Let me tell you something



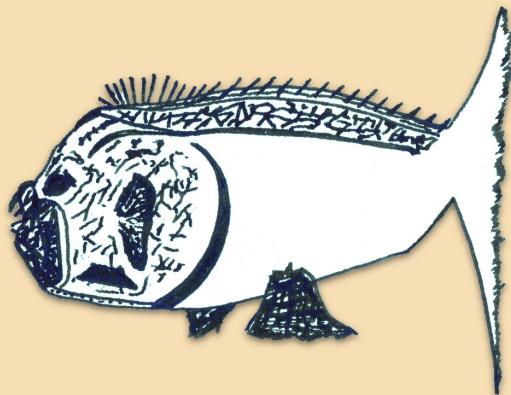
Let me say this



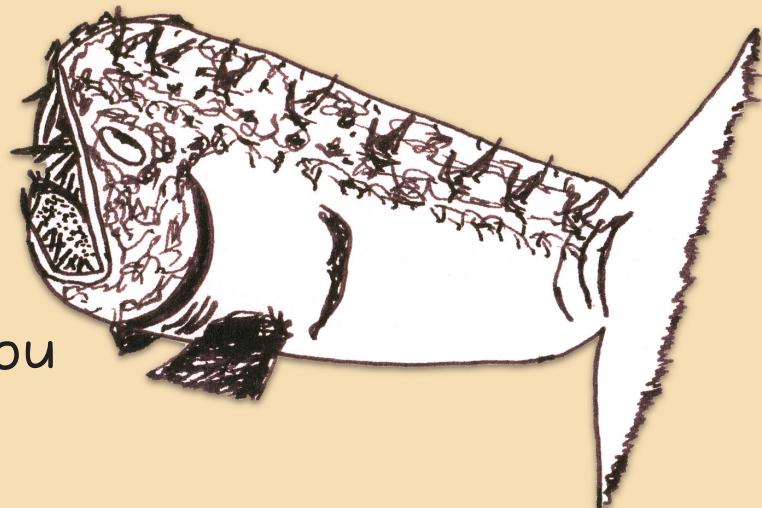
Look

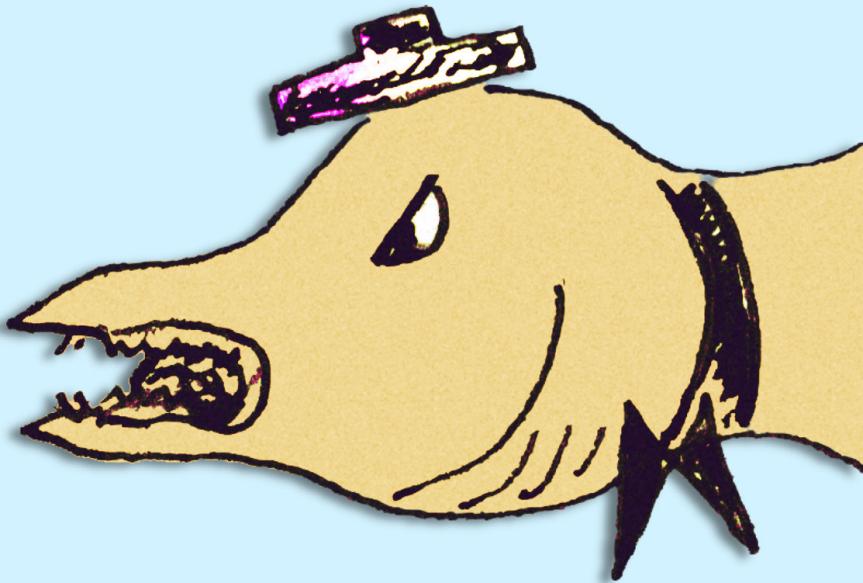


So get this



What if I told you





People often hear me say

Here's a question I'd like to ask



Metas (and other redundancies) of note:

As an aside
Check this out
Do you mind telling me
Evidently
Here's the deal
How about this
I don't mind telling you
I must say
I often say
I'll keep this short
I'll state the obvious
I'm speechless
I'm telling you
I'm without words
I've been meaning to say
If you don't mind my saying
In other words

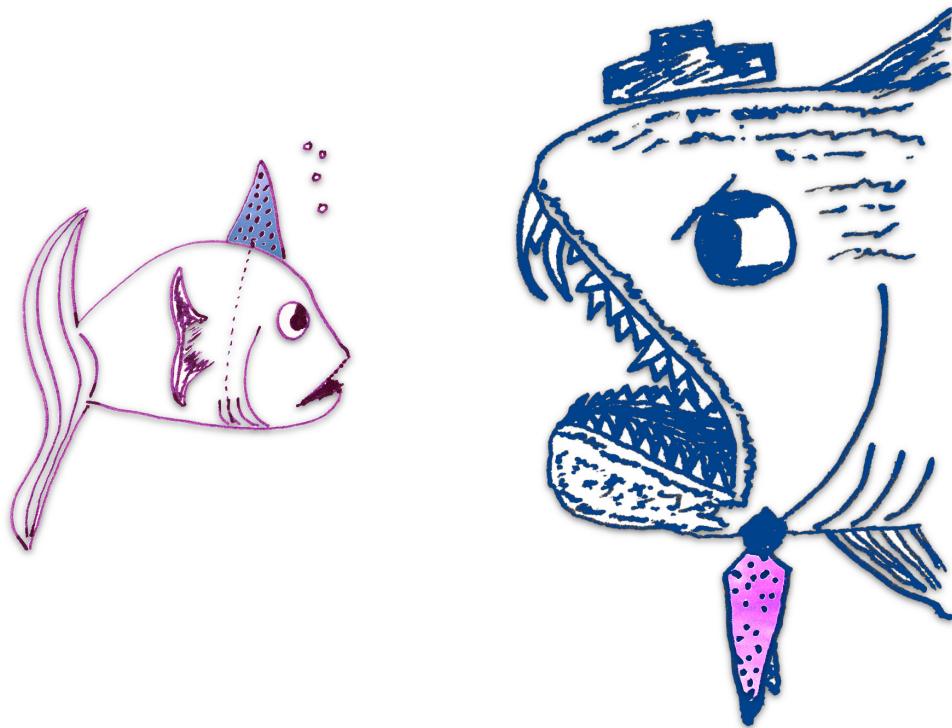
It could go either way
It is what it is
It's hard to say
It's important to note
It's really your decision
It's really up to you
It's really your call
Long story short
Query whether
Said differently
Something I'd like to ask
Superfluously
The big question
The thing is
The only thing is
There's no saying for certain
They say

This is me talking
To paraphrase
To rephrase
To say again
To state the obvious
Want to hear something
We need to ask ourselves
What can I say
Why do they say
What do you want me to say
Who am I to say
You've heard them say

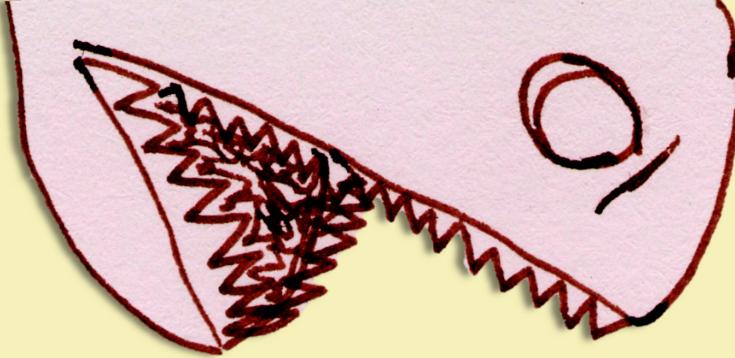


The COGS

- duckie Bonus Category: COGnitive function.
- duckie Talking... about Thinking about talking.
- duckie Everyone cares what you think. Obviously
- duckie Notice syllable stress and speaker liability.
E.G., I think vs. I think

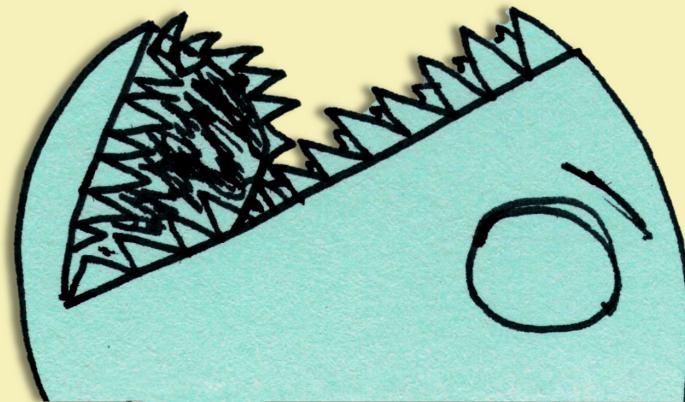


I may not know what I'm talking about

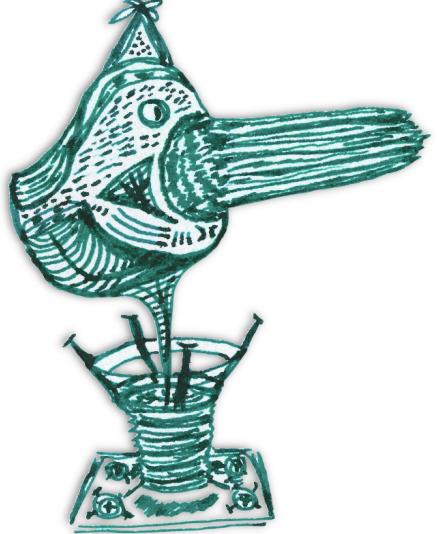


Wanna know what I think?

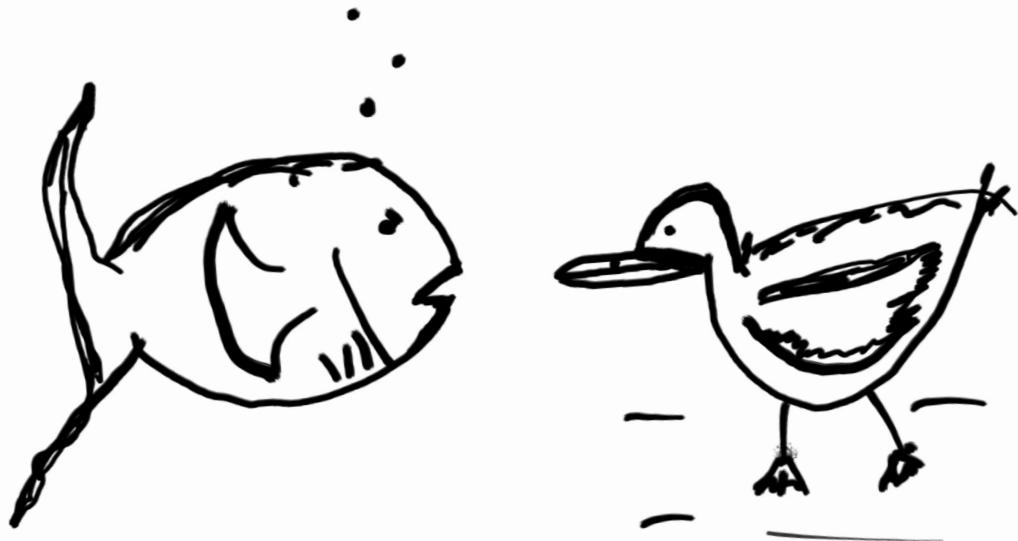
Wanna know what I think?



If you want to know the truth



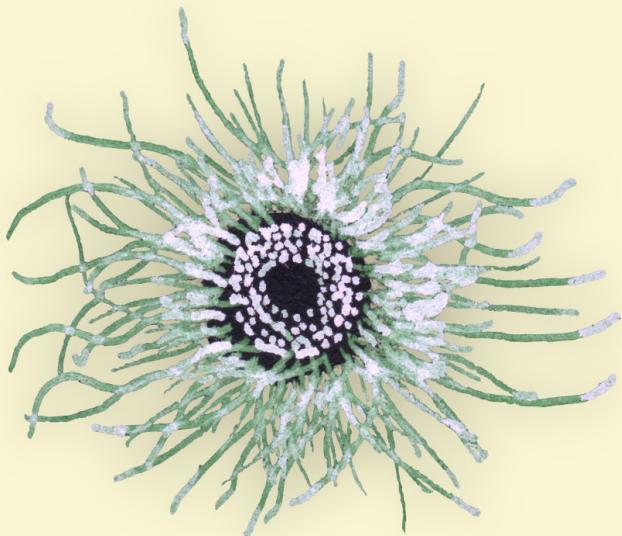
I believe it's worth mentioning



Keep in mind

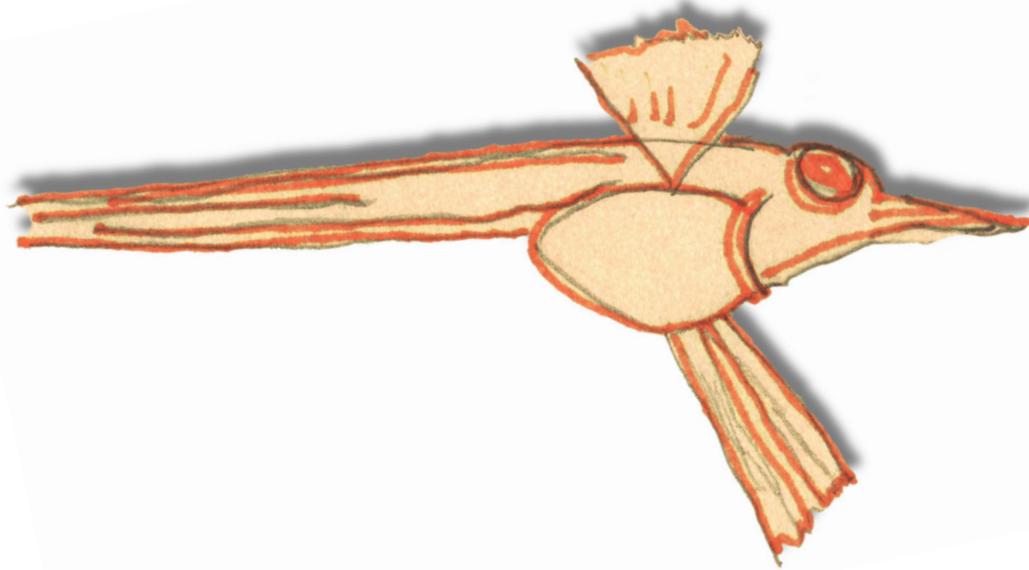
Out of curiosity

I think

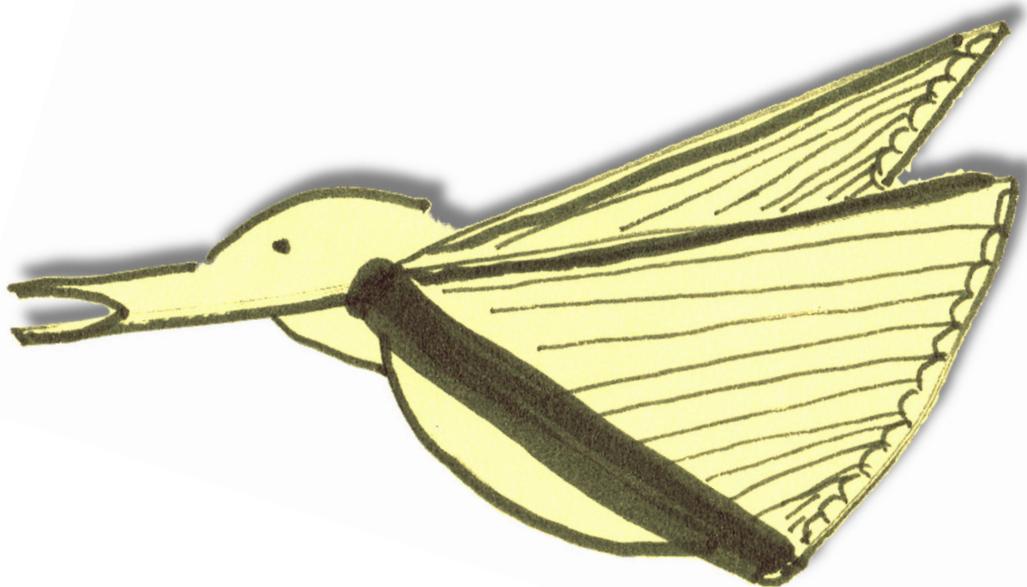


I suppose

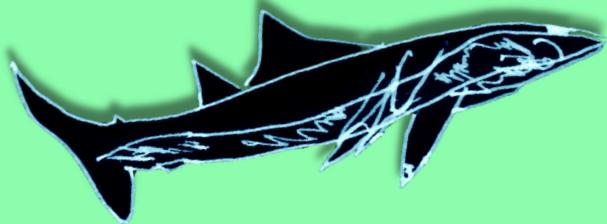




I never thought I'd say this



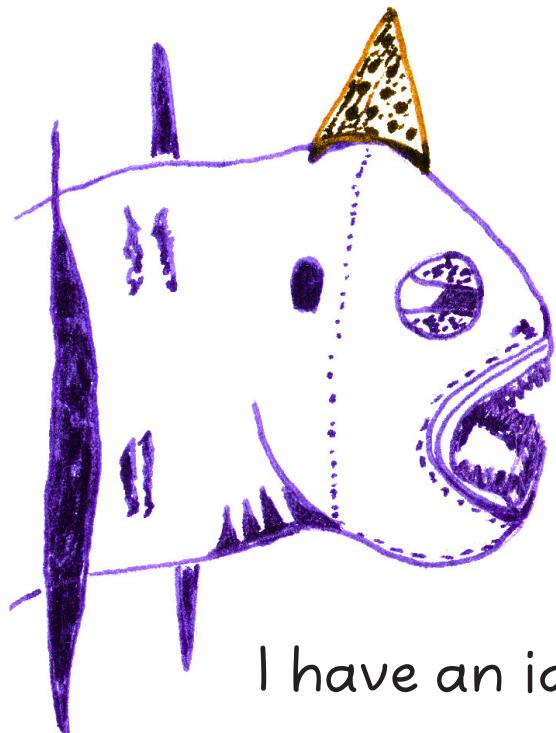
I thought I'd never say this



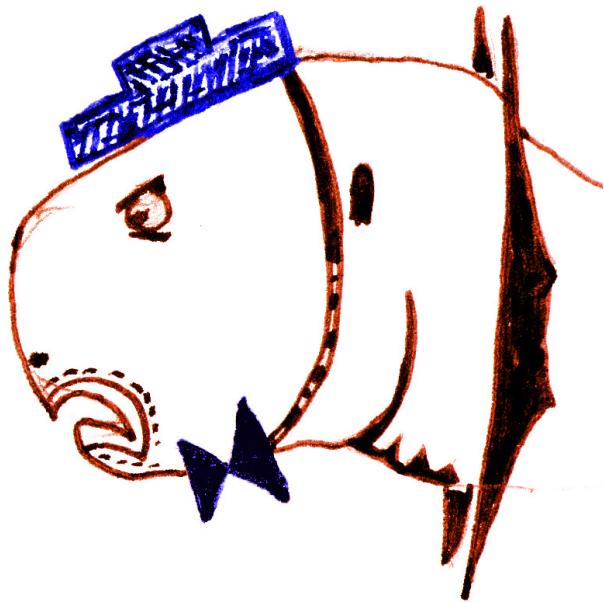
I guess



It occurs to me



I have an idea



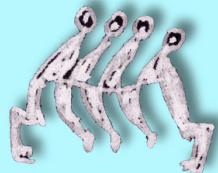
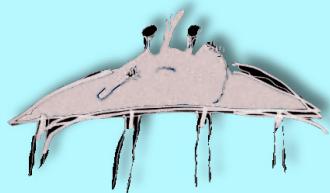
I'm of two minds

Just so you know

Just so I know

If you must know

Know what I mean?



Remember these COGS:

After careful consideration
As far as I know
As far as I'm concerned
Did it occur to you
Do you think
Don't forget
Everyone knows
Everyone wants to know
For my own knowledge
Guess what
Here's a thought
Here's an idea
Here's what I think
I have a thought
I know what I'm talking about
I never imagined
I suspect
I want to know

I was thinking
I was wondering
I'd be curious to find out
I'd be interested to know
I'm just thinking out loud
I'm sure you know this
I'm thinking
I've been thinking
Imagine
If we knew then
Just a thought
Knowing what we know
Lest we forget
Let me tell you what I think
Let me think
Mind you
My gut instinct
Picture this

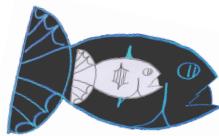


Remember
Remind me
The more I think about it
There's no way to know for sure
Think about it like this
Thinking out loud
This is just an idea
This is just my opinion
When you think about it
Who knows
Without perfect knowledge
You know
You'll never believe

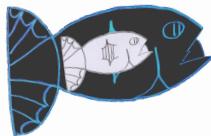
CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Almost done. Time to stick the landing.

Don't risk it; let abstractions guide the way.

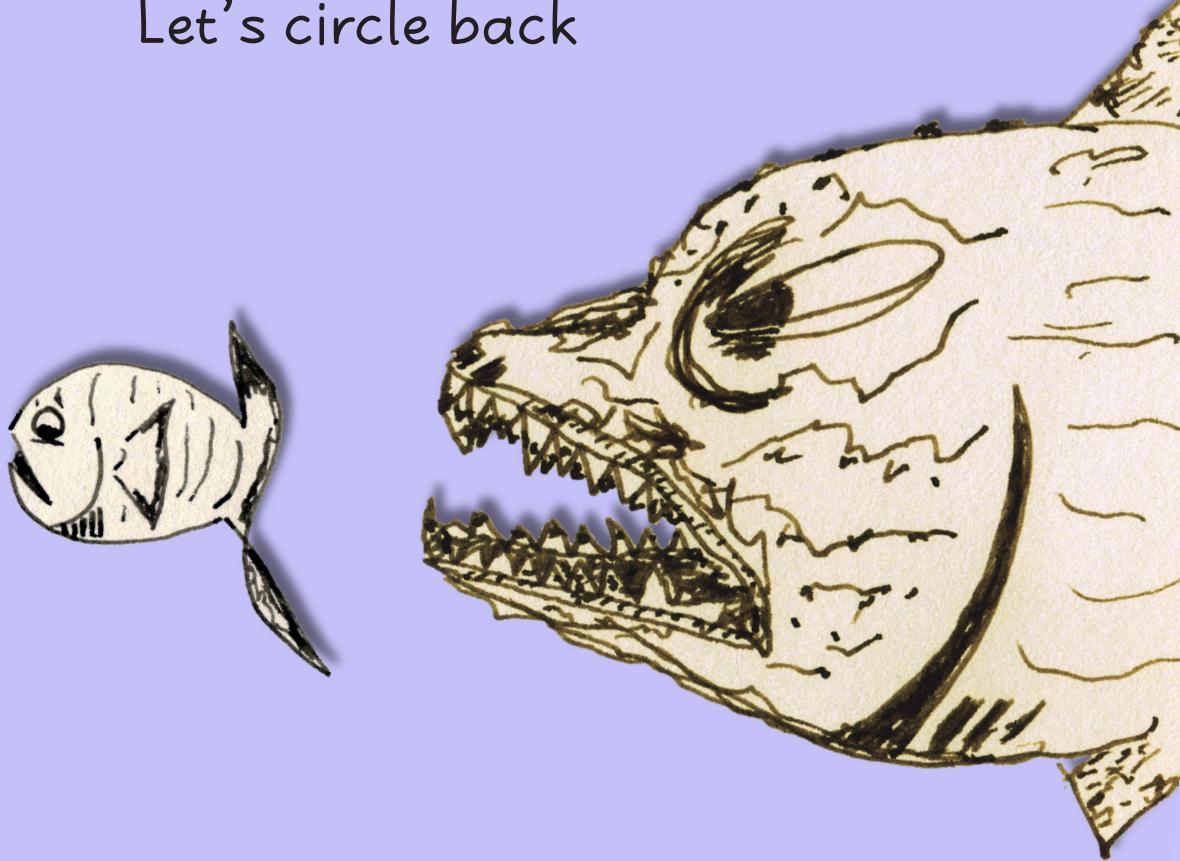


Be inconsequential.



Be Safe.

Let's circle back

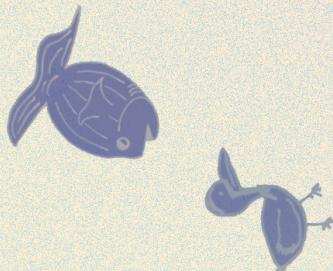




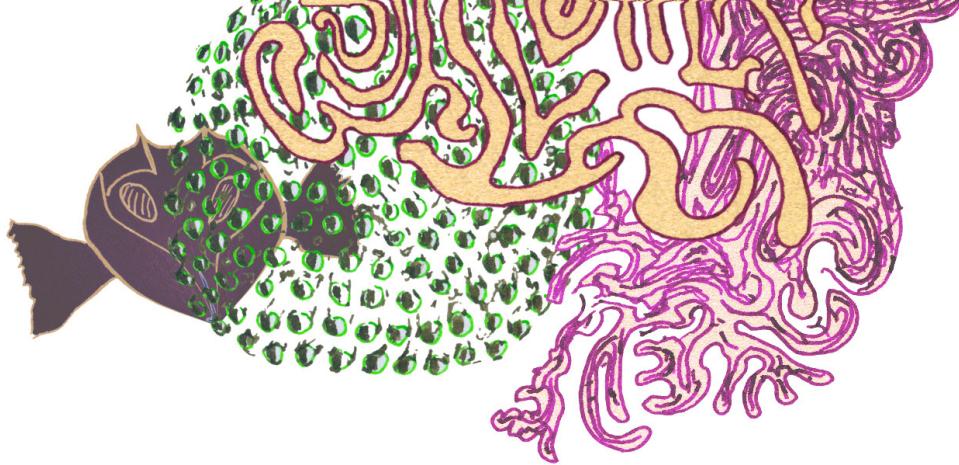
Is that reasonable?



Keep me posted



More to come.



To be continued



Equally efficient Concluding Comments:

Cool?

Do you hear me?

Do you know what I mean?

Do you understand?

Does that make sense?

Does that sound OK?

Does that work for you?

I hope that helps

If there's nothing else

Is that fair?

Keep in touch on this

Let's leave it there for now

Let's put a pin in it

OK, then

Sound good?

Unless there's anything else

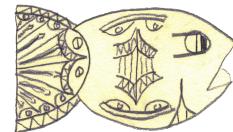
Until next time

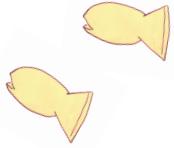
We'll talk soon

Yeah... Or...?

You good, otherwise?

You tell me





Nothing ventured, nothing lost!

Unless you disagree.

...Obviously.