

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

[Quick Links](#)

[Ara's Web Site](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Click Here to Join!](#)

Issue #233

February 16, 2021

Great to have you back with us for a dose of Uncommon Sense! Now that the Super Bowl is past us, the impeachment circus is dead and gone, and President's Day is over, let's get down to business.

Ever wonder about the concept of both time and time management? The **Self-Development** column will serve up some perspective on that.

The **Elephant in the Room** column reviews a few important tidbits about one of our most revered Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin. I hope you come to appreciate old Ben after reading my comments.

The **From Ara's Journal** column ruminates about the notion of mockery. For what it's worth.

The **World of Words** column lays out a word that is anything but boring, even though the word itself is about a boring matter.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Curious Nature of Time

I find it striking that successful people almost invariably have considered carefully how they spend their time. Some of the most successful business people, for example, are practically obsessed with the subject of time. I attribute much of my own success, modest as it may be, to a fierce focus on time, how it's used, what it garners, and how it is sometimes squandered. So adamant am I that my time not be wasted by others that I have been known to walk into a meeting, and then abruptly walk out of that meeting

within seconds if I detect the parties that called the meeting are not prepared. It definitely sends a message.

Time itself is such a unique phenomenon. There is nothing quite like it in all of our human experience. Time possesses a consistency that I see matched nowhere else. Every second ticks away without the slightest deviation. There is no interruption to the march of time. There is no vacillation with time: its steady and unyielding pulse does not speed up and does not slow down. The precision inherent with the passage of time in all its units of measure, from seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, quarters, years, and decades, has an exactitude from which there is no fluctuation.



In contrast, we humans routinely deviate from our pace, losing momentum in the process, that we may never again regain. Interruptions and distractions of all kinds plague the human condition. It takes enormous effort to avoid such distractions, and since we've become a population of people trapped in the quagmire of multi-tasking (as if multi-tasking is some sort of badge of honor) we often find ourselves flummoxed and stymied.

Perhaps the first step towards better self-management is to come to grips with the supreme importance of time itself as a phenomenon. The sands in the hourglass of our lives are perpetually trickling downward. The dropping of that final grain of sand represents the moment we close our eyes for the final time. Thus, it strikes me as paramount that we make the awareness of time a top priority, and that we be more mindful of the passing of time.

The more sensitive we are about time, the greater the likelihood that we will waste less of it.

The outcome of that is greater accomplishment and a more fulfilling life.

The Elephant in the Room

Benjamin Franklin

This preeminent Founding Father is worthy of a lifetime of study. One of the things about Ben Franklin I find compelling is that he had a cautionary view of government. He worried that too much government intervention in our lives, especially in relieving the suffering of the poor, might cause an unhealthy dependence on government intervention, and this would result in a sort of laziness in people.

He also summarily rejected the notion of victimhood and identity politics that is so rampant today thanks to unrelenting Left-wing propaganda, that you are the color of your skin, or you are your class, or you are – of all things – your sexual preference. Franklin would have found such ideas both strange and dangerous. The Left sees them as obvious truths that do not need to be questioned. But for Franklin, he understood that America is a place where anyone, regardless of social class, could rise to wealth and status based on their willingness to be industrious and their commitment to cultivating their virtues. He firmly maintained the



belief, born by personal experience, that all of us can rise through our willingness to engage in hard work. Note that to some Leftists, the very term "hard work" is offensive on its face, and can only mean one thing: white supremacy and a love of slavery of blacks. That's not exaggeration or hyperbole; Leftist spokespersons have stated such views very publicly. Plug in the search terms "hard work is racist" into Google and you will see a wide swathe of views that Franklin would have found dreadfully bizarre.

Over time, his affection for the middle class and its virtues of hard work and frugality meant that his social theories tended to be a blend of conservatism and populism, and could be summarized as:

- Faith in the virtues of hard work and frugality.
- A benevolent belief in voluntary associations to help others.
- A conservative opposition to handouts that led to laziness and dependency, and
- A slightly ambivalent resentment of unnecessary luxury, hereditary privileges, and an idle landowning leisure class.

And his hard work paid off. Franklin left this world better than he found it, chalking up such notable accomplishments as:

- The establishment of the academy that later became The University of Pennsylvania.
- He was the Founder of the American Philosophical Society.
- He was our nation's First Postmaster General.
- He served as Ambassador to France.
- He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
- He was one of only three Americans to sign the Peace Treaty with England which ended the Revolutionary War.
- He is the only person to have signed all four of the major Founding Documents of our nation:
 - The Declaration of Independence
 - The Treaty with France,
 - The Peace Accord with Britain
 - The U.S. Constitution.

This nation is very fortunate to have had among its Founders this charming, witty, wise man in Benjamin Franklin.

* * * * *

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

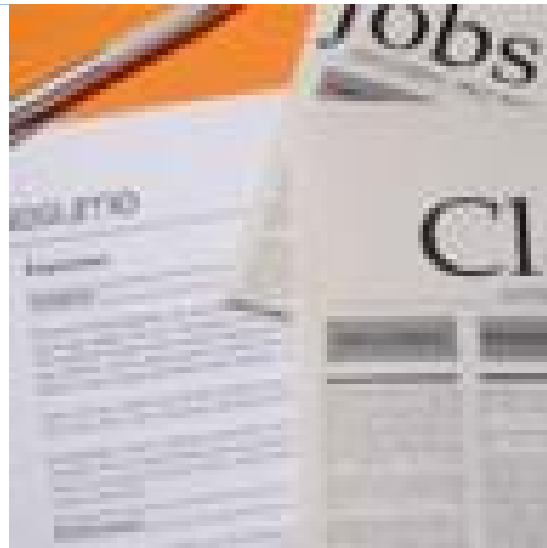
Shameless Plug Is Your Résumé Overdue For an Overhaul?

You may be gainfully employed, you may be unemployed, or you may (knowingly or unknowingly) be heading for a layoff. Having an impressive résumé can set you apart from the competition and position you for your next job.

Don't wait for the crisis. Get ahead of the game by whipping your résumé into shape now!

If you are in need of a quantum improvement of your résumé, you will benefit from my eBook, *Crafting a Winning Résumé*, which you can order by [clicking here](#).

Your résumé is your marketing brochure, and you do not get a second chance to make a first impression. Make an investment in yourself!



* * * * *

"I purchased Norwood's résumé guide last month and it's amazing! He goes through the processes step-by-step and you end up with not only a résumé that will get you that interview, but the skills necessary to be confident so you succeed in your interviews resulting in you receiving job offers (yes, offers)." -- D Smith, Santa Clarita, California

"I could not have gotten my first job without your expertise. Thank you so much! I learned that I had to reword and improve my résumé in order to be taken seriously in the workforce. I had been given tips from my professors in Health Science and other professionals but your advice was just what I needed. It took weeks of frustration waiting for interview calls when I happened to stumble across your website and discovered that I needed help. Your publication enlightened me with your knowledge on the wording and format needed to attract an employer. Furthermore, your booklet helped me recognize certain skills and work experience that I would have never considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

From Ara's Journal

On Mockery

Mockery is alive and well today. Mockery, which is the act of spewing out contemptuous language (or behavior) towards another person or a movement of some kind, by making an absurd misrepresentation of a position, says a lot about the person doing the mockery. Mockery is almost never fair; it is usually a mischaracterization of the thing being ridiculed. But worse, there is the subtle but unmistakable message that the one doing the mockery is of the opinion that he or she is innately superior in every respect to the object of his/her mockery.



Mockery can feel fun. The one doing the mockery usually feels he is quite justified in mocking someone or some thing. There is a sense that the object of the mockery deserves it. This is not to say that the person/object on the receiving end of the mockery is an innocent victim; sometimes they are, and sometimes they are not. But the mocker doesn't do much to remedy the problem that brought the mockery about in the first place.

Having said that, I must confess that I myself (or things I hold near and dear) have often been on the receiving end of mockery. And I myself have been guilty of engaging in

mockery of bad ideas as they come to my attention. While neither is a good thing, I can truthfully say that in most cases when I am being mocked, it has absolutely no effect on me personally. I understand that the mocker is expressing himself or herself in the way he/she feels is appropriate at the time, and I try to look past the mockery as a stylistic expression that is housing some substantive viewpoint that should be explored. However, when sacred things are being mocked (whether they are sacred to me or to others of a different faith tradition) I admit I become incensed and respond decisively.

I would say a more effective approach, at least in many cases, would be to try to reason with the person who could be the target of mockery. (As for bad ideas, mockery is one approach, but a better approach might be to simply point out the flaws in the bad idea, giving cogent reasons for why you believe such an idea is pernicious, or foolish, or illogical, or whatever).

No one can imagine a Mother Teresa mocking anyone or anything. It would strike one as peculiar if she did; it would seem out of character, and would cause a great deal of cognitive dissonance. Would that we could rise to such dignity.

The biggest problem with mockery: it is an attempt at appearing clever, but it is almost always void of wisdom.

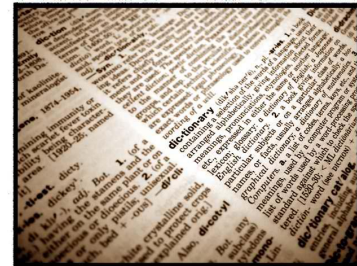
The World of Words

Wooden

Building Your Power of Expression

Wooden, adj.

Pronunciation: ˈwɔːdn



Meaning: I use this word in its symbolic, not its literal sense to refer to a person of a rather stiff, unexciting persona.

Usage:

- *She is one of the most wooden actresses of all time.*
- *His rather wooden personality makes for a dull conversation.*
- *I guess she left me because I was just too boring for her tastes, as if I was a wooden caricature of my former self.*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should be in your In-Box within 24 hours from the time you subscribed. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com)

For more information on my work, follow me on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

Ara Norwood
Leadership Development Systems

Visit our website



Leadership Development Systems | P. O. Box 801681, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1681

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ara@aranorwood.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!