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## Quick Quiz

Each month I'll give you a new question.

Just reply to this email for the answer.

The first hot air balloon passengers were animals. Which three animals?

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## The Story behind a Game Helping People Make Connections

Actually Curious is a card game with a difference. First released in 2018, it exists to elicit meaningful, empathetic conversation between players, rather than turn them against each other in competition.

Using two decks, players move through four different levels of cards, each with a question or conversation starter. The lower levels consist of lighter hearted questions, such as your favorite snack, intended to be icebreakers. Once trust and comfort within the group has been gradually built up through these fun and sometimes silly conversational prompts, players move up a level, at which point the questions become increasingly more personal, intimate questions about life which lead to deeper and more open conversation.

The game's creator is Michael Tennant, CEO of Curiosity Lab. Tennant left a comfortable position as head of branded content for PHD Worldwide in 2017 in order to work on what he was truly passionate about. He wanted to create tools which would help facilitate meaningful connections and expand conversations and perspectives amongst different types of people. Curiosity Lab was founded for this exact purpose and, when they launched Actually Curious a year later, it immediately sold out.

As well as being a success from a business point of view, Tennant found that in the intervening years its ethos has helped him to overcome his own difficulties. In a particularly harrowing three months in 2019, he lost two brothers, went through a breakup and found himself reflecting on deep generational trauma amongst the men in his family. During that time he remembered how a

game of Actually Curious with his family had helped him to speak honestly about his depression with them, something he'd never been able to do before.

Personal experiences such as that have served to spur him on to continue sharing Actually Curious, in the hope that it can truly help others open up when they need it most.

## How to Win Big in Today's Economy

The altered economic landscape presents innovative and nimble businesses with opportunities to thrive. Find out how by requesting my free report "How to Win Big in Today's Economy."

Just reply to this email and I'll send it right out to you.

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## Groove Delights with Out-of-the Box Thinking and a Retro Hotline

If you're a remote worker, a freelancer or even a remote freelancer, sometimes working from home can feel a little, well, isolated. More and more of us have opted for working from home, but what that often means is forgoing human interaction, sometimes for days on end. Luckily, Groove have masterminded the freelancer hotline, a US based service (1-833-HOTL1NE) freelancers can call for a pick me up.

This ingenious idea is just the kind of out-the-box thinking online coworking community Groove is famous for. The idea came after the company decided to remove themselves from social media, the company started spitballing about how they could make an impact in freelancers lives without regular social updates, and the old school idea of a hotline came to them. The hotline is what they hope can relieve a freelancer, the same way a coworker might do over a five minute cup of coffee.

The hotline launched in April and since then has racked up a number of calls, it seems to have a really positive reaction. It provides a little light humored relief to freelancers who may be dreading writing a big email to their boss or writing a pitch document. Plus, with its evergreen nature, people can get introduced to it at any time. When you call the hotline, there is a menu with a few different options to choose from. If you want, you can spend your time going through each option until you have uplifted yourself with all the advice. There's even an option to

The Groove Pick-Me-Up Freelancer Hotline is a lesson in how to use traditional tried and tested methods to create customer satisfaction. If something is a good idea, it will stand the test of time.

## Worth Reading

### 20 Googling Tricks 99% of People Don't Know About

Darshak Rana  
*Better Humans*

Ever tried to Google something and had to sift through thousands of search results just to find something slightly relevant? With five billion

### Resources to Help You Get the Best from Your Time Tracking and Invoicing

Harvest  
*Harvest*

This hub of resources isn't just one article. It's loads of them. Harvest has a whole wealth of

searches daily, it can be hard to find what you're looking for. That's what this article from Better Humans is going to teach you: how to Google. Well, at least more efficiently.

[Read More](#)

information in its resource center that can help with your time tracking, pricing your projects and even avoiding the dreaded burnout. Some are articles and some are more interactive, but all are incredibly handy. Useful for managers, entry level workers and freelancers alike.

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## Creating an Onboarding Experience that Nurtures Belonging

When we are starting somewhere new, the process of onboarding - integrating into a new company - can feel very daunting. While for some people it may be a hop across the road for a similar position, others may be uprooting their lives to join you, leaving them feeling quite vulnerable. If you are looking for some ways to make the onboarding process easy and nurturing for new employees, here are some trusted tips to get you started.

### **Get the admin out the way before they start**

There's nothing that feels less welcoming than getting to work and being buried under a mountain of paperwork. Send this early so that their first day feels like a real first day.

### **Let them set their own goals**

Hiring new people should be about creating the right environment for them to thrive. Helping them set their own goals is a part of this. Empower them to be the best for both themselves and your company.

### **Give people a good place to begin**

Whether this means buddying up new people with old timers to know the lay of the land, or creating a useful document that fills in any gaps in the business, make sure you have this ready so that newbies can get stuck in straight away.

### **Meet in person often**

This is key especially if you are a remote working company. Helping your employees put real faces to names creates bonds which helps with communication and feeling connected.

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## Links You Can Use - Bots

Are you interested in learning more about bots and how they can help your business? Here are

some useful resources to get you started on what bots can do.

## 5 benefits of using customer service chatbots with AI

Using AI to make chatbots is a very useful tool businesses have been using for a while. Here are five reasons why.

[Read More](#)

## Grow Your Business With Social Bots

Bots can also grow your business in other ways, like on social media. This article explains how.

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## 10 Awesome Chatbot Benefits for Your Business

Chatbots can also benefit your customers in many ways, as you will see in this extensive list from REVE Chat.

[Read More](#)

## Business Bots that are Revolutionizing the Workplace

What type of bots are there, and how do you use them? This article explores eight business bots that are revolutionizing the workplace.

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## How to Find and Build a Mentor-Mentee Relationship

So many successful people swear by the guidance of a good mentor, but how do you find one for yourself? It's not exactly like you can go to the "mentor store" and check out someone with 10+ years experience to put aside a small amount of time for you each week. If you're lucky enough to find a mentor, it's also tough figuring out how to maintain a mentor-mentee relationship.

### What is a good mentor?

This isn't Cinderella, and a mentor shouldn't be your fairy godmother waiting in the wings to grant you three wishes and propel you to success. In reality, they're someone just a few steps ahead of you who is still figuring the rest out themselves. A good mentor is a collaborator; they want to work with you as opposed to just lecture you and give you a grade. You needn't feel like you're trying to prove yourself to them.

But mentors aren't where guidance ends.

### What is a sponsor?

This is someone who is backing you. They're the one who is going to use their connections to put you in that room and gush about you when you're not in it. A sponsor is usually someone who works within your industry, most likely your company. They need to already have a seat at the table you're hoping to get invited to sit at.

### How do you find them?

Sure, you can find mentors through corporate mentorship programs, professional organizations or networking events, but your best mentor might be someone you already know. Is there someone in your industry you feel inspired and motivated by? If you have someone in mind, ask yourself these questions: Do they understand the context of your work? Do they know you? Do you trust them? If the answer is yes, consider them for a mentorship.

### How do you keep them?

The real question is are you ready to be mentored? You'll have to relearn things you thought you knew, and you might not always like what you hear. You'll need to be ready to be humbled. You also need to be a collaborator.



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