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**Subject:** To a mathematician, is there any difference between 4+5 and 5+4? - Quora

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Your Quora Digest

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### To a mathematician, is there any difference between 4+5 and 5+4?



William La Chenal  
284.1k views

It's 9:51, and a mathematician has a train to catch, and an important phone call to make at 10:00. The train leaves in 4 minutes 35 seconds. That's four minutes to get to the train & board, then five minutes to find a seat and get comfortable before getting out the mobile phone, for the important call. Or, it's five minutes to get to the platform in time see the the train vanishing in the distanc... [Read More »](#)

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### Did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin have instructions of what to do if they couldn't take off from the moon?



C Stuart Hardwick, Scifi Author, Writers of the Future winner.  
48.8k views

Probably not. I heard an interview with Buzz Aldrin in which he said people often ask if they carried poison pills. They did not. When you can reach up at any time and crack a valve that will let the air out slowly enough you pass out before anything starts to boil, you don't need poison pills. In all likelihood, these men--experienced test pilots--would have continued working the problem right ... [Read More »](#)

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From a recent session

### What advantages does publishing with the big 4 publishers have and how might it decay over time?



Ricardo Fayet, Co-Founder of Reedsy-com  
451 views

That's a good question. Just to clarify for people who might not know this, the "big 5" publishers are Penguin Random House, Simon&Schuster, HarperCollins, Macmillan and Hachette. I'll list the main advantages of being

published by them below and explain whether they're sustainable or not.  
**Extensive print distribution and sales** New books by big 5 publishers end up in all the bookstores at launch.... [Read More »](#)

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## Why do German households use so little electricity compared to those of North America?



John Grantham, Web designer, hobby historian, armchair theologian, American resident in Germany  
86.9k views

I have lived over 20 years in Germany and come from the US, so I can make a reasonably informed comparison.

First, Germans by and large do not use air conditioning or even fans.

Second, while most have a laundry machine, most do not use a dryer (they hang out the laundry to dry). Similarly very many people do not have a dishwasher, or even if they do, they don't use it much and do the washing... [Read More »](#)

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## Life Advice: How can I make my life simpler?



Katie Birtles, Traveller, Reader, Writer  
106.6k views

My life has recently become the simplest it's ever been.  
Here is how I did it:

### 1. Threw out my stuff:

I recently whittled away my possessions to two large bags and a 30L backpack. The two bags are in storage, and I took the backpack travelling.

It is liberating to be able to move around so freely, and to know that whenever I want to move, I need only pick up a few bags, and go.

### 2. Got rid of a fixed ...

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## What do designers think of the revised Trump Pence logo?



Muhammad Mazhari, designer at Quora, student at UMich  
86.1k views

 This logo makes me really uncomfortable. Let's start with the obvious: **It's really suggestive** - I'm not sure how the person designing this logo missed this but the 'T' & 'P' of the logo have pretty suggestive and, frankly, sexual undertones. I think this tweet sums it up well: **It breaks some US flag**

**rules** - The left side of the US flag has about an equal weight of stars and stripes: The new Trump ... [Read More »](#)

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## What was the most powerful piece of magic performed by anyone in the Harry Potter books?

 Esa Knaapi, The Tea Drinker  
58.3k views

 I try to list ones, which nobody else had mentioned. The funny thing is there are many spells, which are scientifically just damn impressive and wizards and witches use them all the time. 1. Space bending spells like **Undetectable Extension Charm**. 2. **Traveling** with Apparition, portkeys, Vanishing Cabinet, Floo Network.. How those things work? Do they bend space with spells to open wormholes or wha... [Read More »](#)

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## Should I be embarrassed by my job title?

 David Friedman, Principal Consultant, Efficace Startups Platform  
60.8k views

Hm. I went to a party with a friend of mine several weeks ago. She's a physicist, and her friends are:

- An economist
- A roboticist
- A chemical engineer
- A computer scientist

There were other people at the party, but those are the people who I remember. My attitude was "Great! Here are some people I can learn from!" At no point in my conversations with them did they say me "Before I can speak with you I n... [Read More »](#)

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## Is Donald Trump right that "General Petraeus got in trouble for far less" than Hillary's emails?

 Maura D Taylor  
13k views

While Petraeus was director of the CIA he passed his personal "black books" to his biographer/girlfriend, knowing they included his notes and comments about classified matters (thereby revealing classified information). When questioned about this by the FBI he lied about it (also against the law). FBI Director James Comey (yeah, the same guy), recommended he be charged with several felonies. Att... [Read More »](#)

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## What are some top Harvard admissions essays?



Linda Nicola, Southern roots goes back to the 1600s

93.4k views

My daughter went to Harvard and is now an interviewer for them. One parent, here on this thread, talks about the competition, and they are right. Everybody at Harvard is a valedictorian, captain of a sports team, brilliant, etc. That is just where you start off...

In the essays and interviews, Harvard is looking for what *\*you\** can *contribute* to Harvard, how will you make Harvard better jus... [Read More »](#)

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