

Words from a Watchman

a 2009 talk by Graham Mitchell
comprising 62 slides

```
// excerpt from Worm.java, a snake-like game
```

```
import java.util.LinkedList;
import java.awt.Point;
```

See the bug?

```
public class Worm
{
    private LinkedList<Point> buf = new LinkedList<Point>();
    private final int INITIAL_LENGTH = 10;

    public Worm()
    {
        Point loc = new Point(512,384); // ~center of 1024x768 window

        // queue up initial length, heading south
        for ( int i=0; i<INITIAL_LENGTH; i++ )
        {
            buf.add( loc );
            // move next point one pixel toward bottom of screen
            loc.y += 1;
        }
        // now oldest point (tail) is at the center, and head 10px below
    }

    // many other methods not shown
}
```

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        for ( int i=0; i<INITIAL_LENGTH; i++ )
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```
            buf.add( new Point(loc) );
```

```
            // move next point one pixel toward bottom of screen
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```
            loc.y += 1;
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```
        }
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```
        // now oldest point (tail) is at the center, and head 10px below
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```
    }
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```
    // many other methods not shown
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```
}
```

See the bug?

How Geeky Am I?

- ☐ know at least 17 digits of pi and 15 digits of e
- ☐ can translate binary \Leftrightarrow ASCII manually
- ☐ have a vanity domain (or 4)
- ☐ *since graduating* have taught myself
 - Perl
 - Intel x86 assembly language
 - Scheme
 - Python
 - Javascript (a.k.a. ECMAScript)
 - Ruby
- ☐ have run Linux on the desktop since June 2001
- ☐ still edit almost everything in *vim*

forum cred



redditor for 4 years (!)

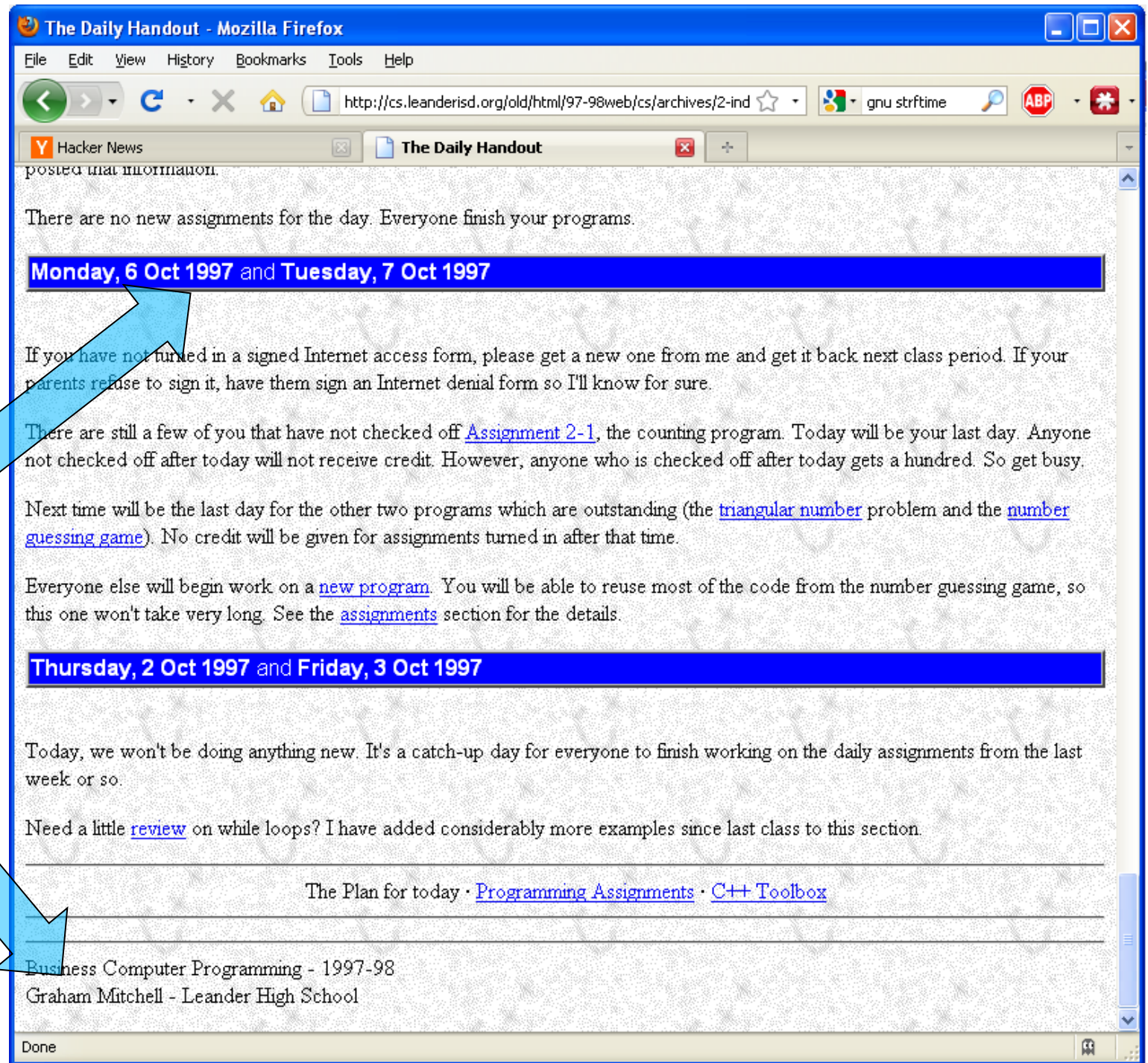


5-digit user id (29386)
– since summer 1997?



I do not have an account on digg.
I do not visit digg.

oh, my



On Popularity

Social norms are usually:

- arbitrary
- temporary
- subtle
- non-verbal



Popularity is a stupid, shallow game.

(drink me)



Popularity is a stupid, shallow game.

But you can't choose not to play.



What's her favorite band?

**What's his
favorite
video game?**





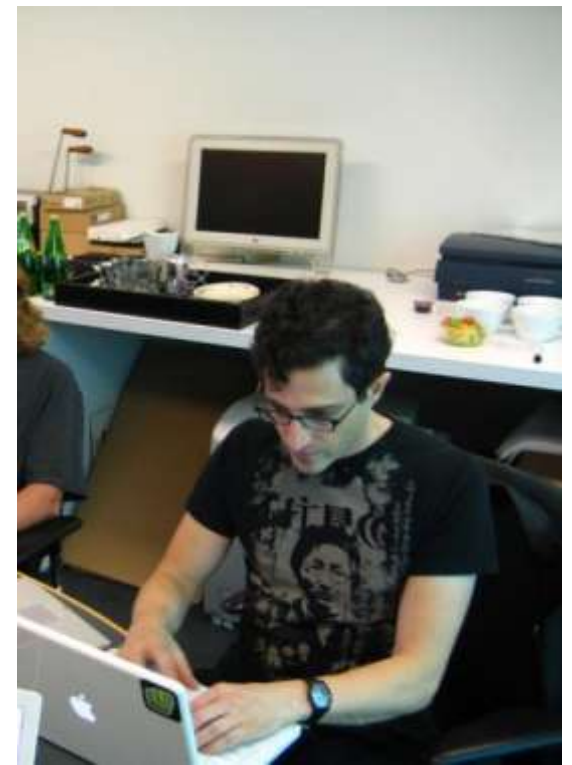
What's their major?

What'd they make on the SAT?



What does he do on weekends?





?



**You choose to be
stereotyped.**

Do you know the rules?



Observations



**In 1995,
I discovered that people
sometimes tell me things
they don't mean.**



7% - words used

38% - tone of voice

55% - nonverbal





deaf ?



“Bella,” my mom said to me — the last of a thousand times — before I got on the plane. “You don’t have to do this.”

My mom looks like me, except with short hair and laugh lines. I felt a spasm of panic as I stared at her wide, childlike eyes. How could I leave my loving, erratic, harebrained mother to fend for herself? Of course she had Phil now, so the bills would probably get paid, there would be food in the refrigerator, gas in her car, and someone to call when she got lost, but still...

“I *want* to go,” I lied. I'd always been a bad liar, but I'd been saying this lie so frequently lately that it sounded almost convincing now.

from Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*

Juliet: No, no. But all this did I know before.

What says he of our marriage? What of that?

Nurse: Lord, how my head aches! What a head have I!

It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.

My back o' t' other side, - ah, my back, my back!

Beshrew your heart for sending me about

To catch my death with jauncing up and down!

Juliet: In faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.

Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?

Nurse: Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous,
and a kind, and a handsome; and, I warrant, a virtuous - Where is
your mother?

Juliet: Where is my mother? Why, she is within.

Where should she be? How oddly thou repliest!

'Your love says, like an honest gentleman,

"Where is your mother?"'

Nurse: O God's Lady dear!

Are you so hot? Marry come up, I trow.

Is this the poultice for my aching bones?

from William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

(Observations)

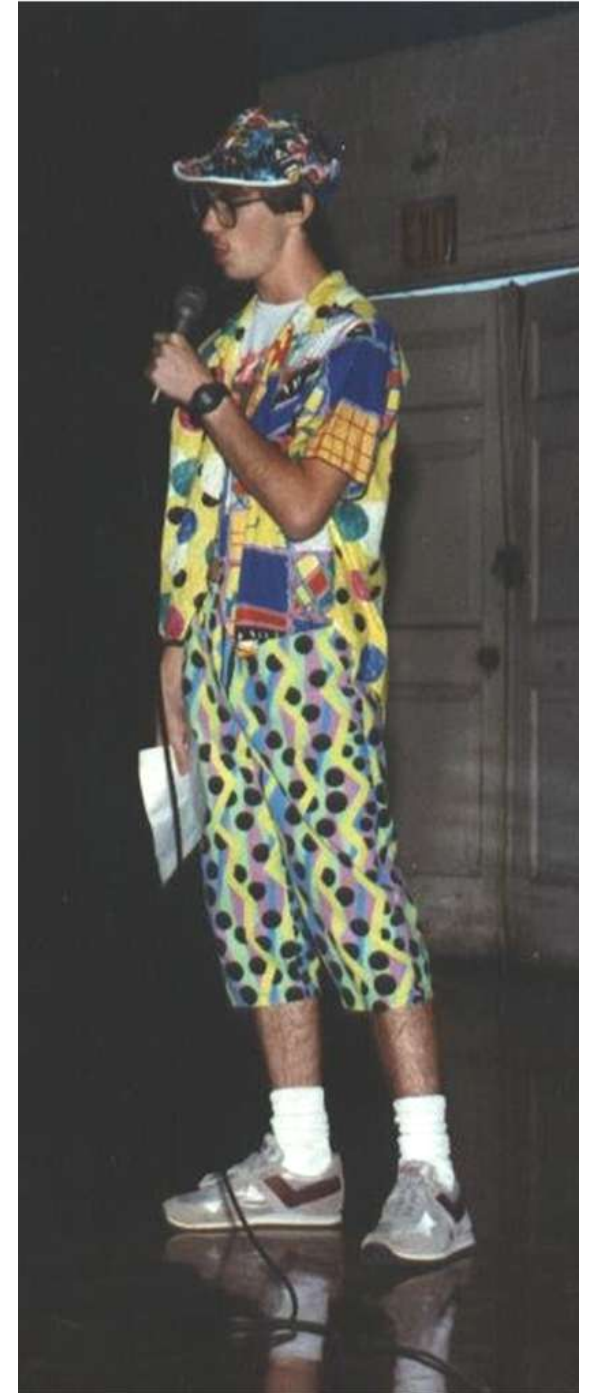
0. “Clothes make the man.”

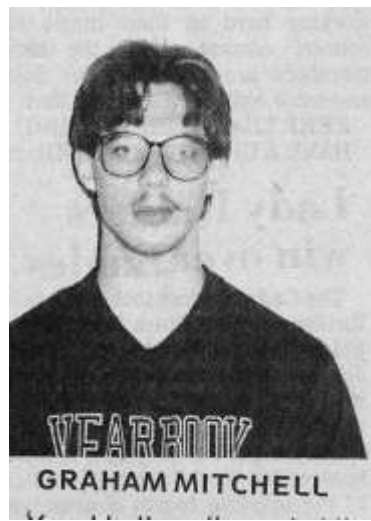




Graham Mitchell

“former” weirdo





“When you pretend to be something you’re not, you become the thing you pretend to be.”

Marc S. Lewis, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology
The University of Texas at Austin

1. The little things matter.

shaking hands

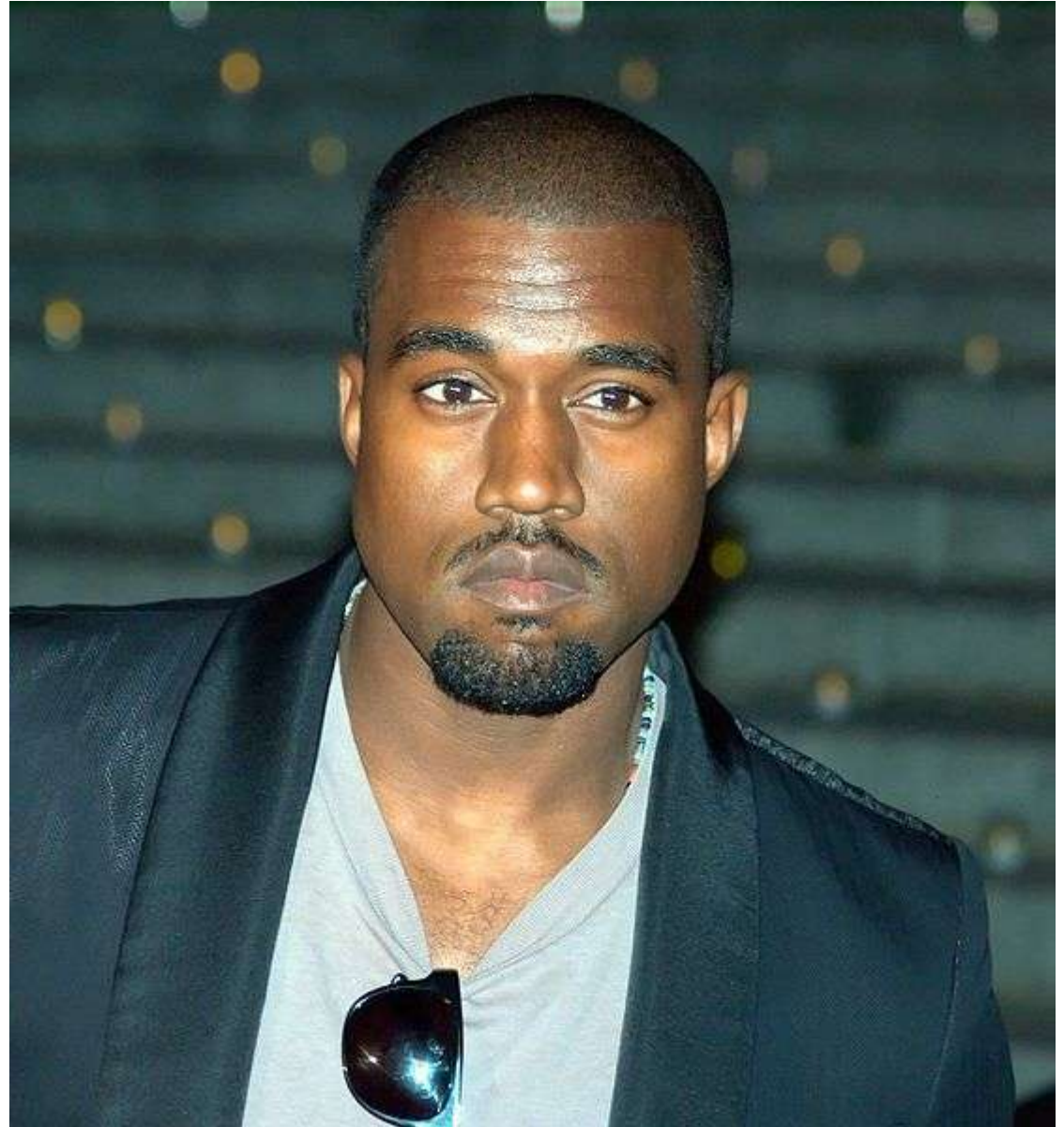
eye contact

hygiene

(breath or body odor)



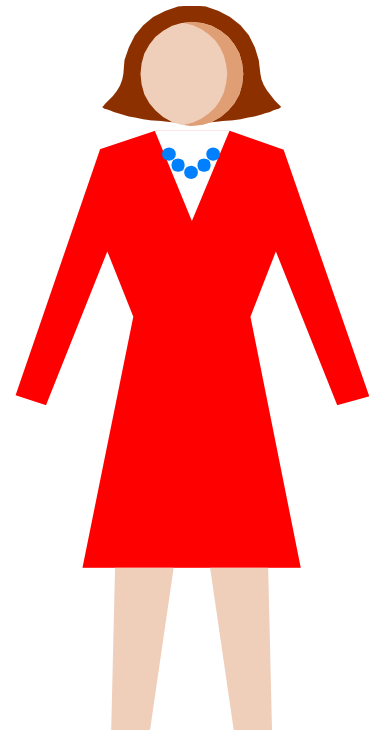
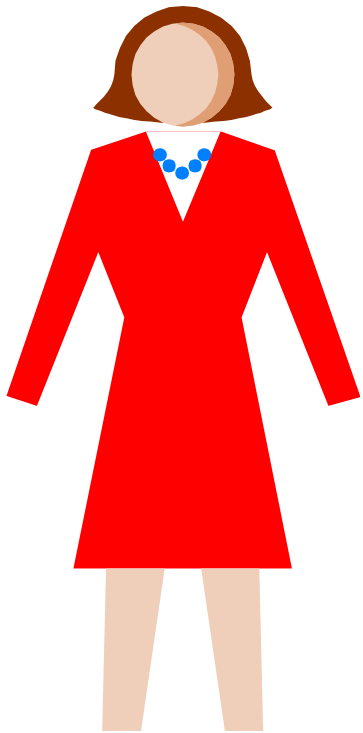
2. Tact is incredibly useful.



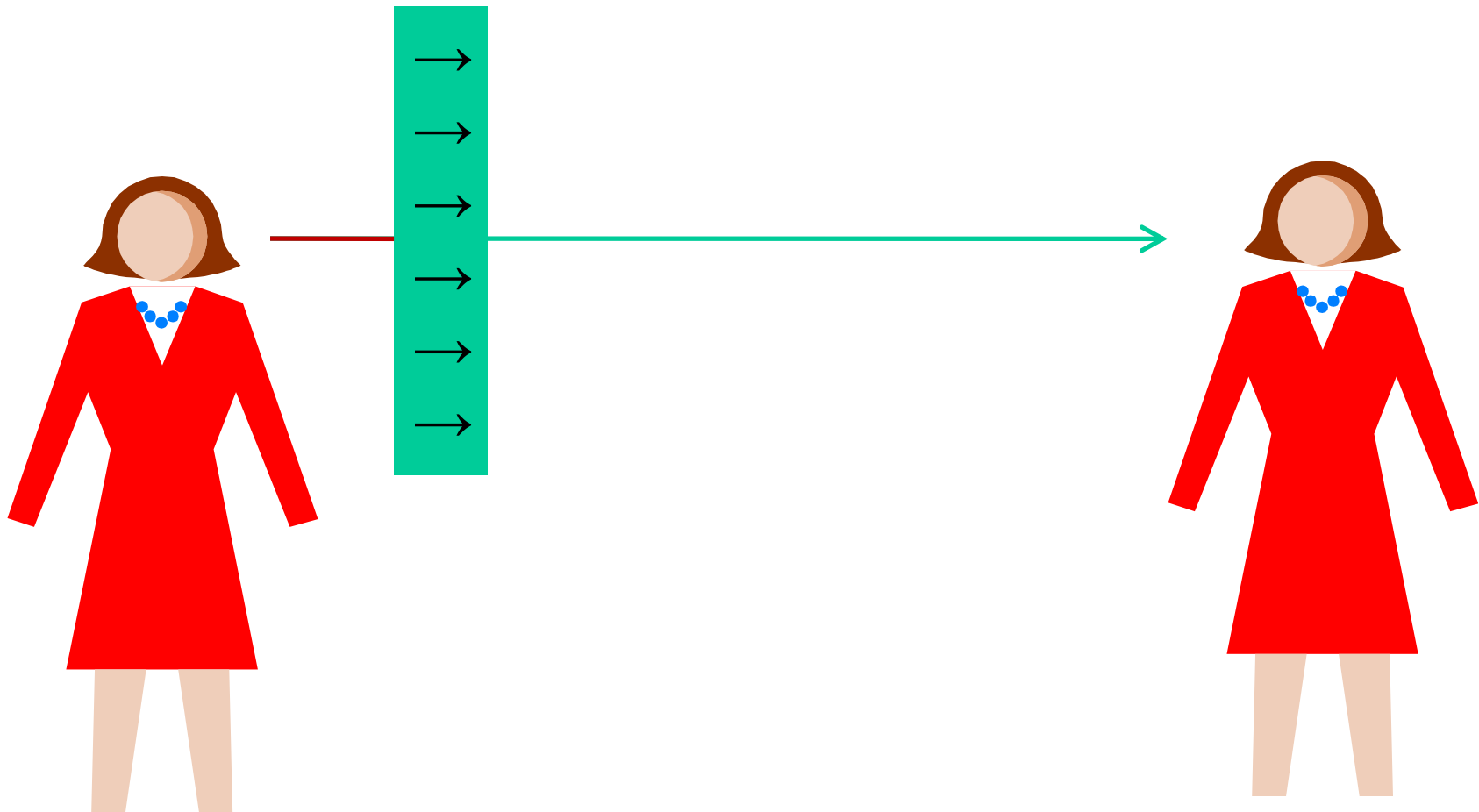
Tact Filters

(idea courtesy of Jeff Bigler from MIT)

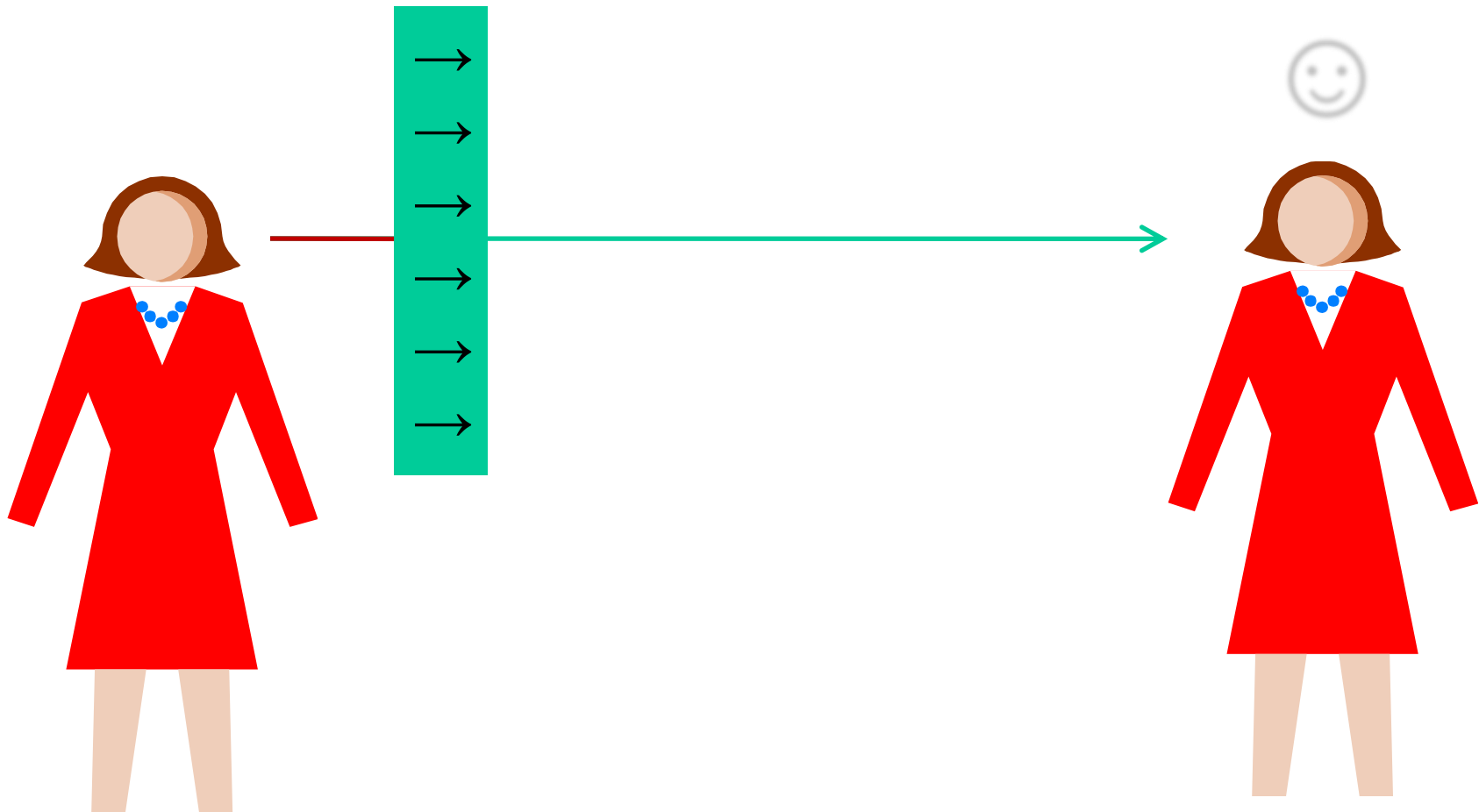
Tact Filters



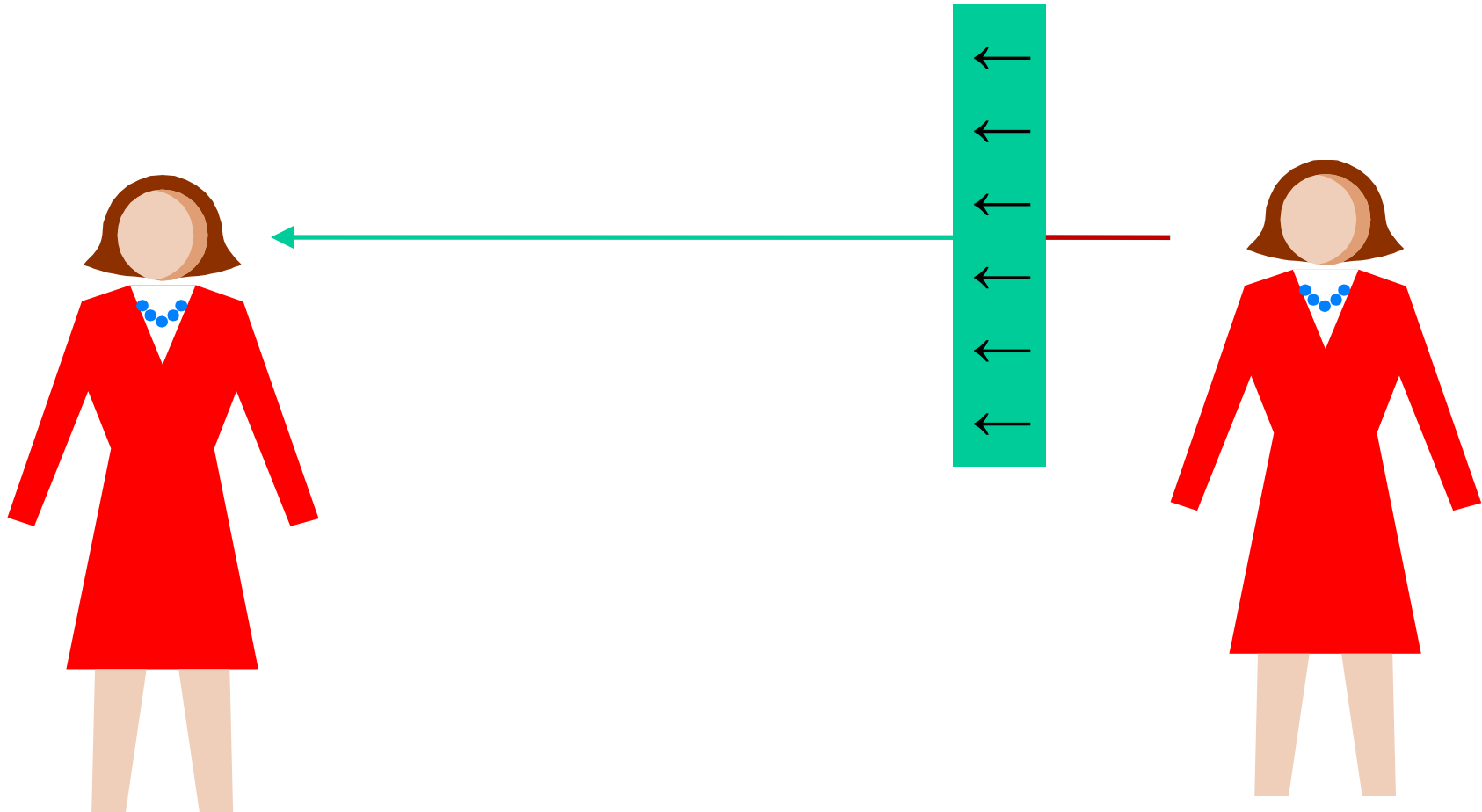
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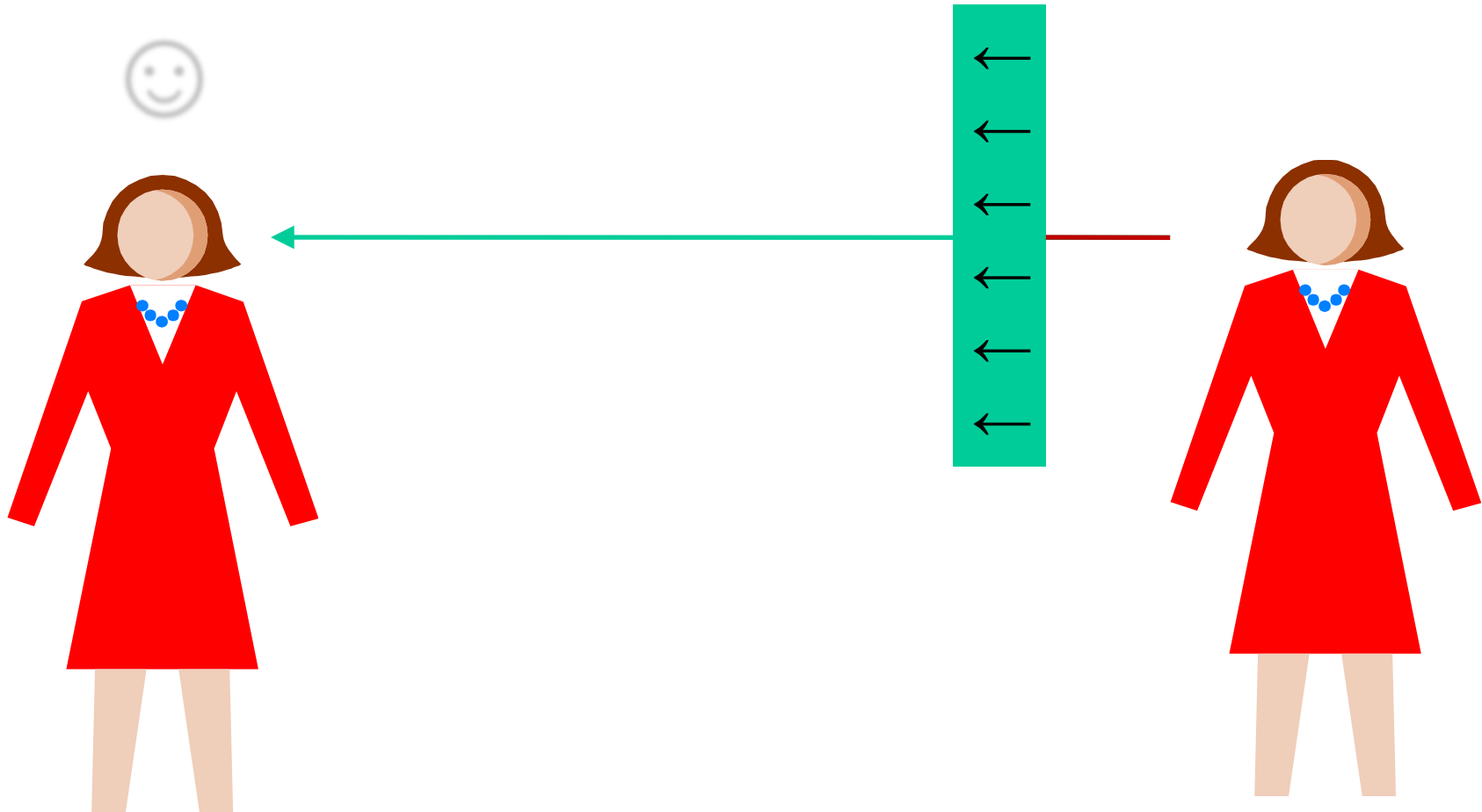
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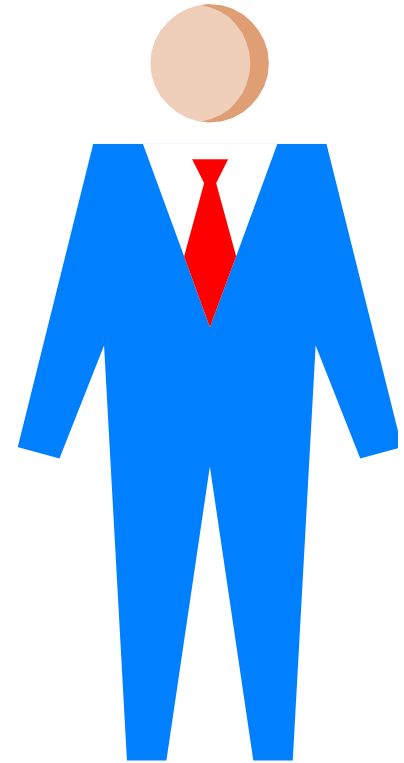
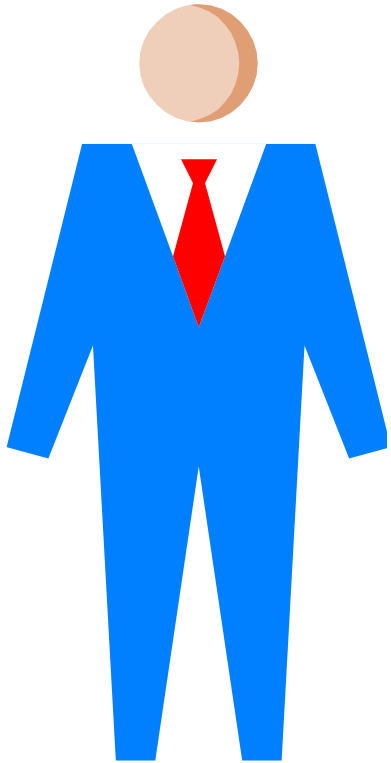
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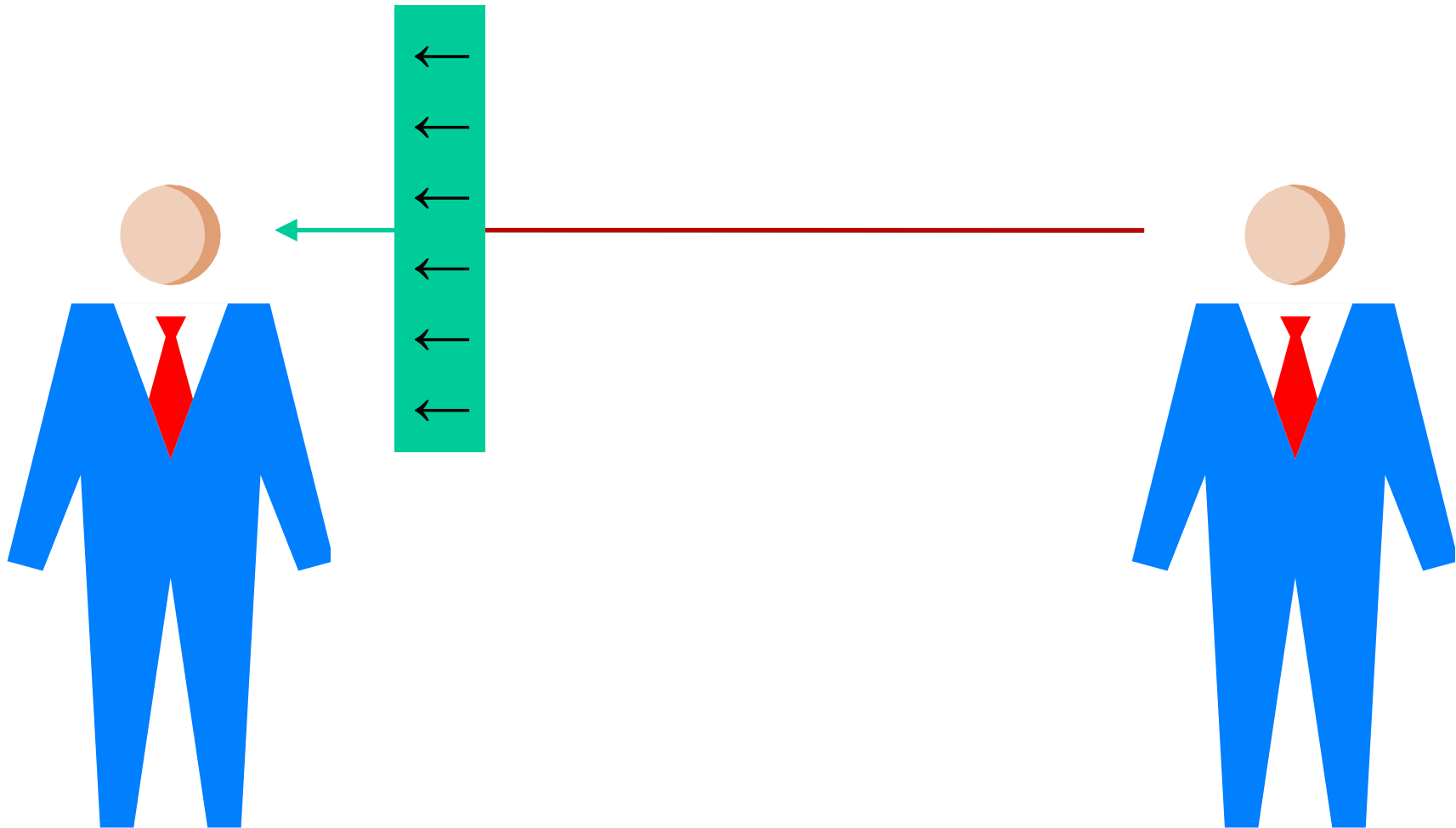
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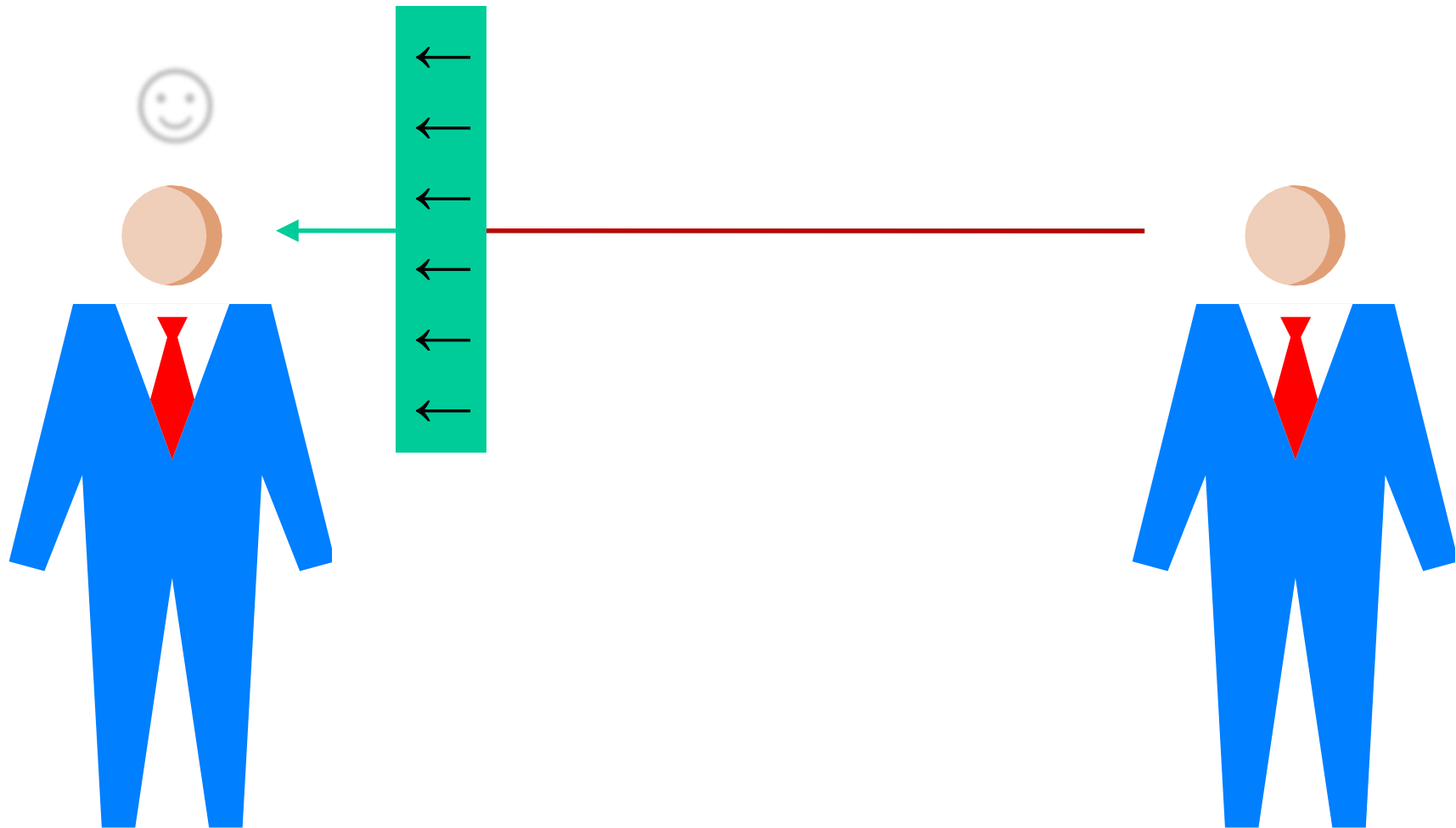
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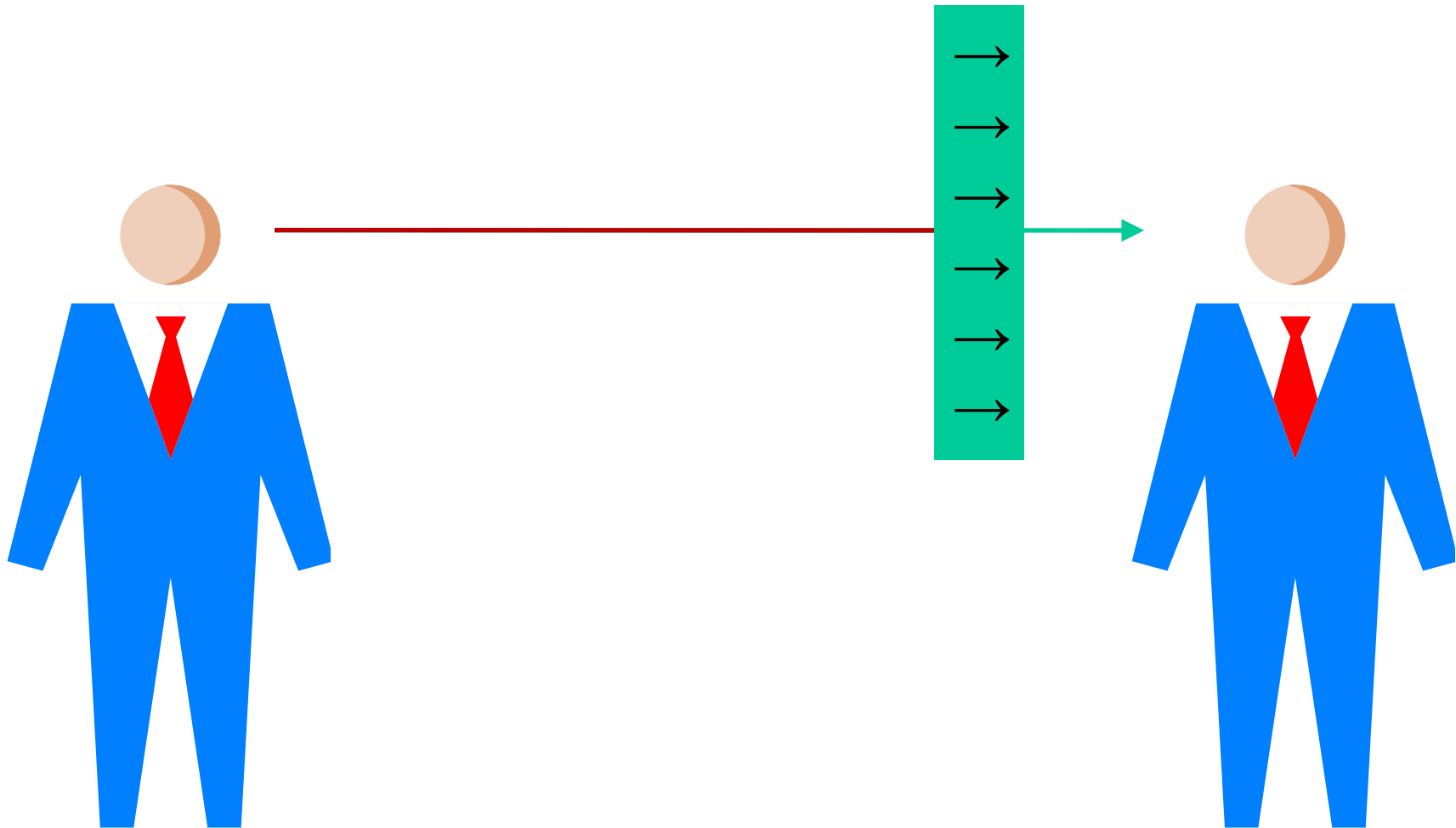
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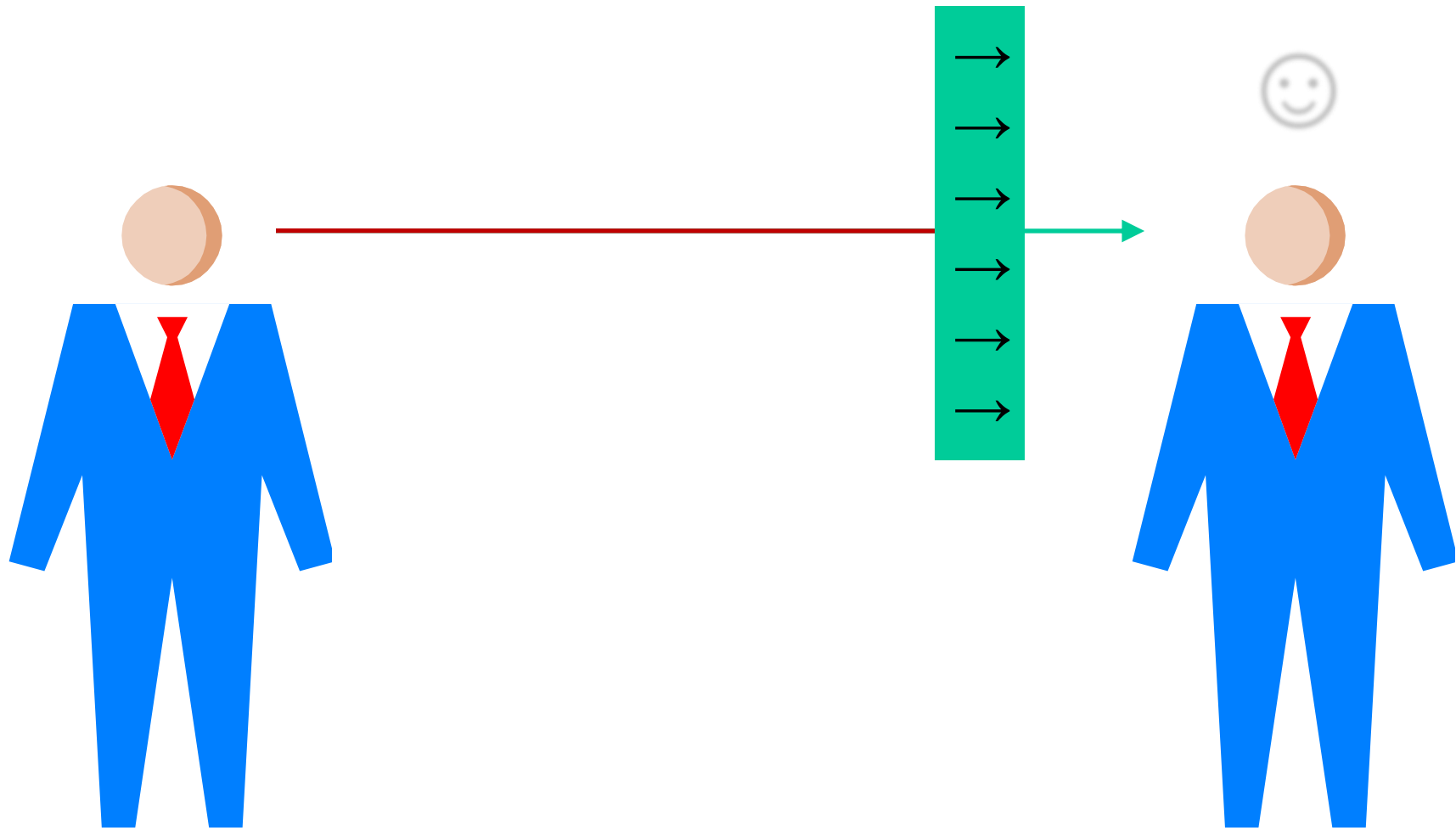
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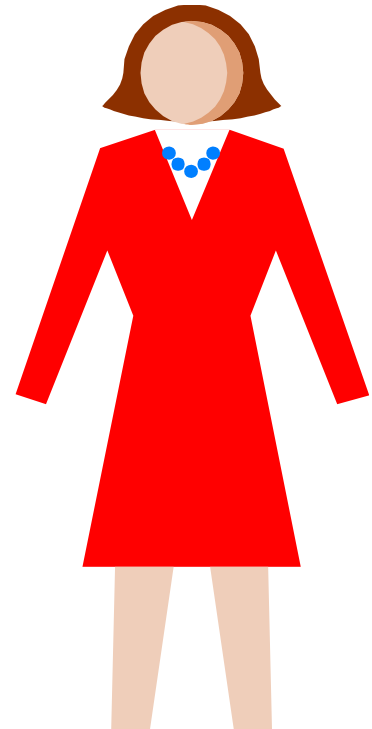
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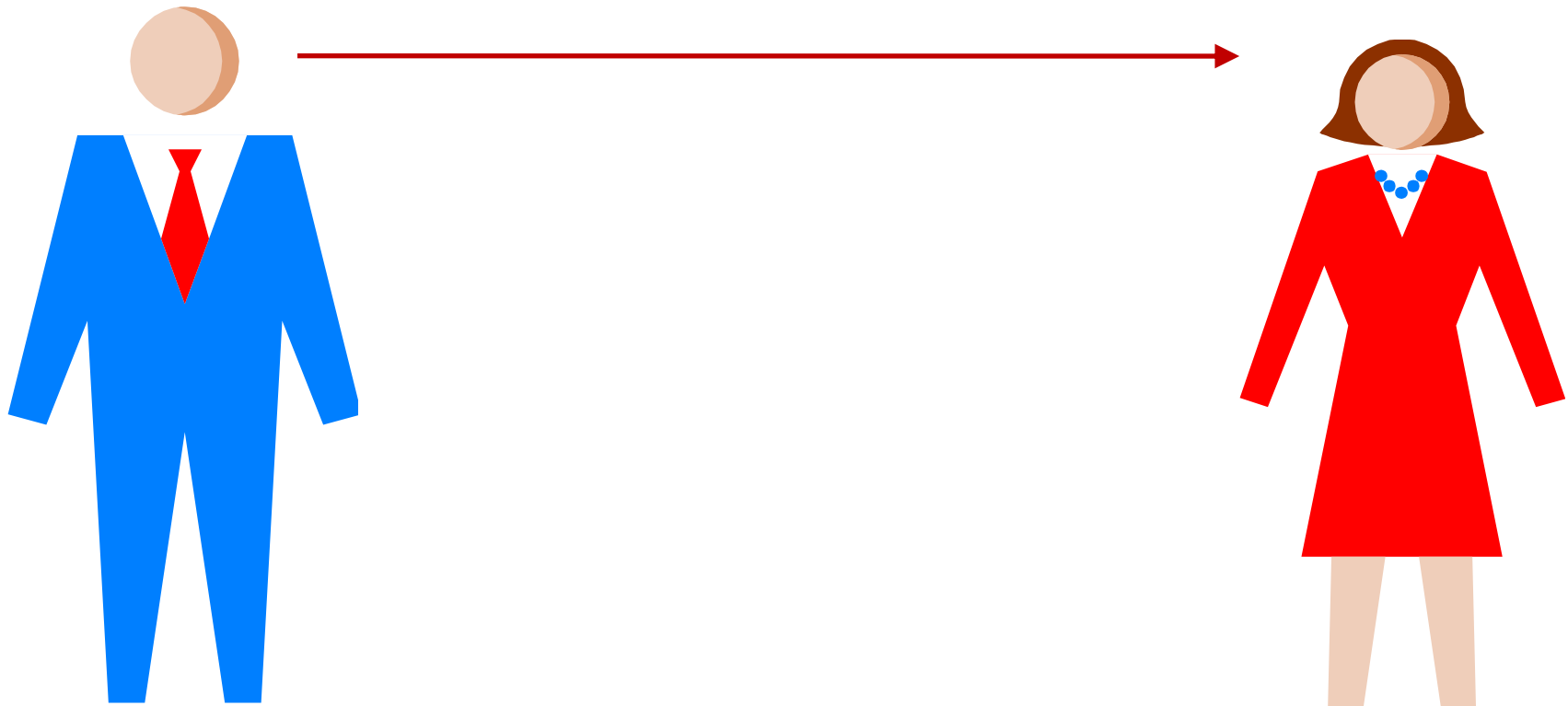
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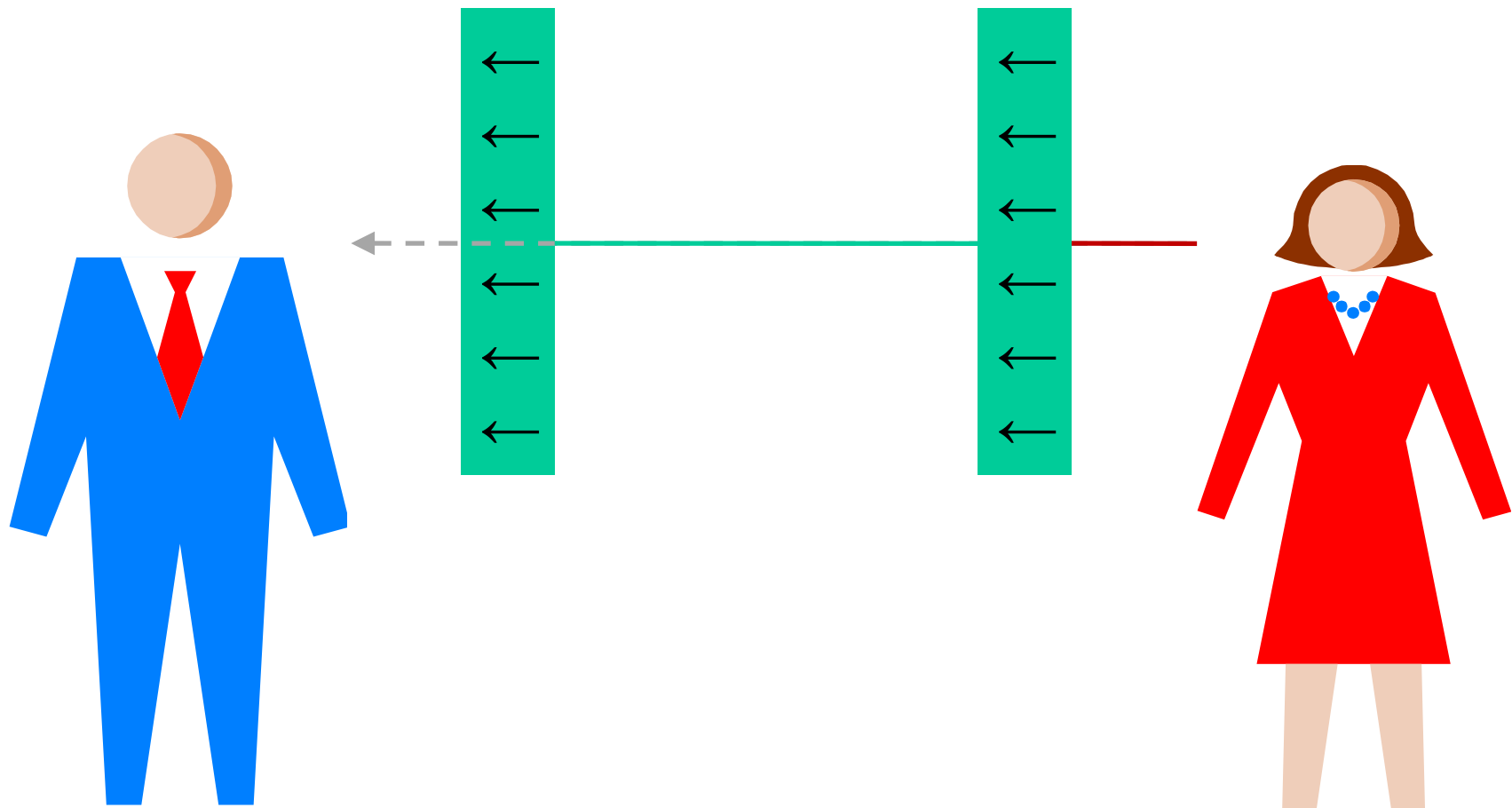
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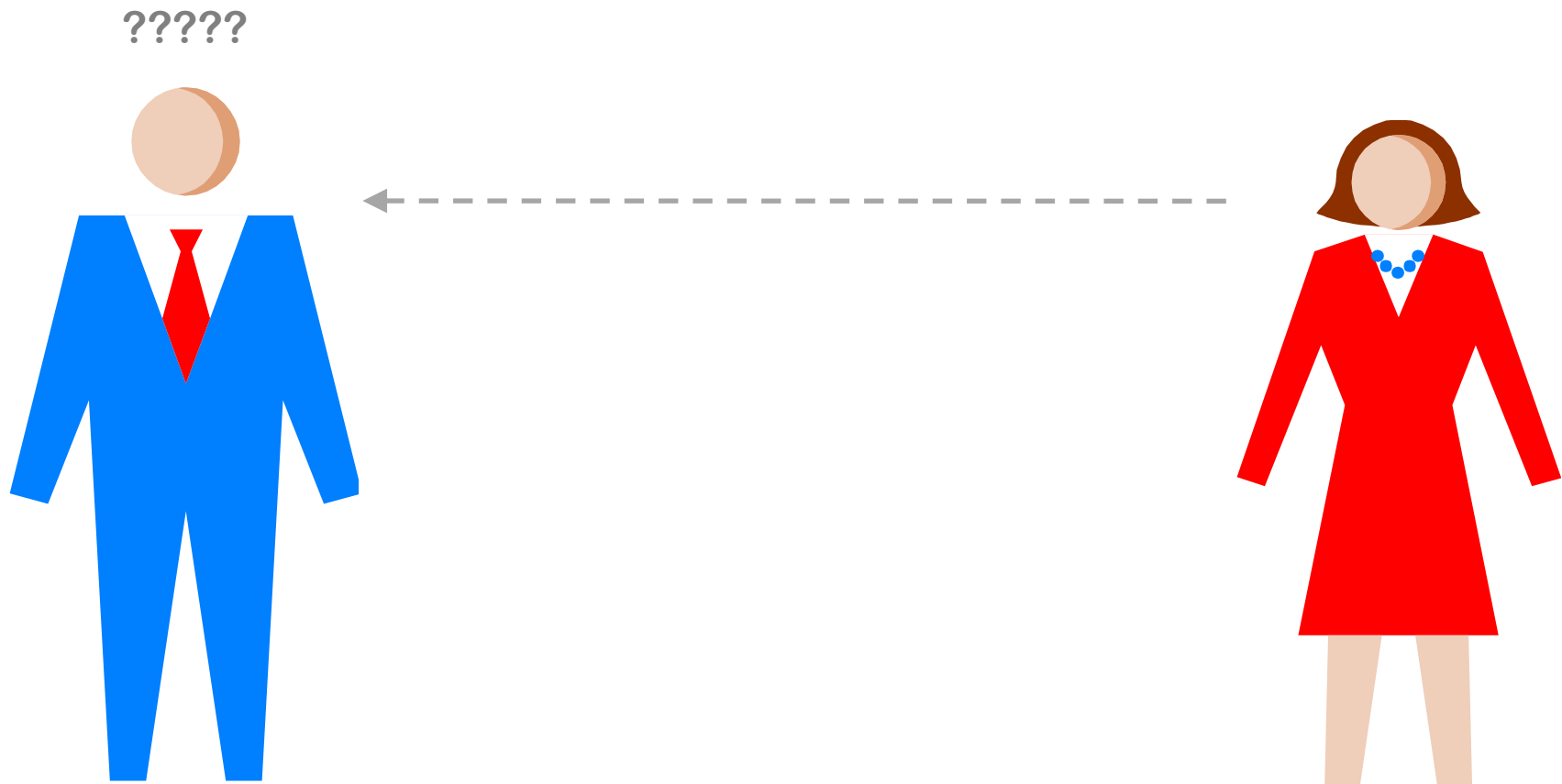
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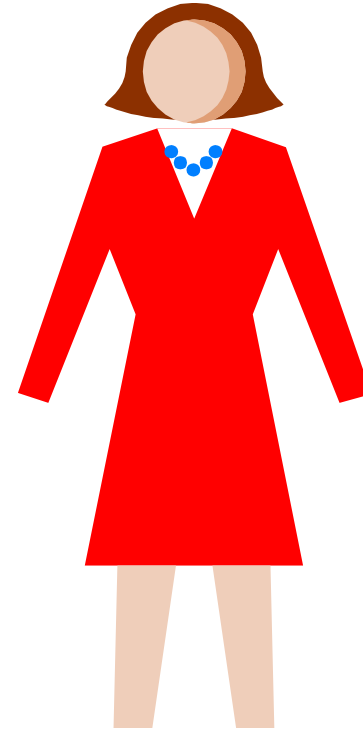


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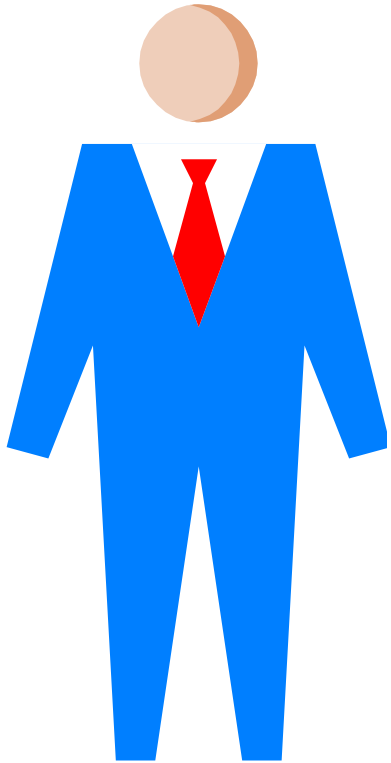


Tip for “Alice”

**It's okay
to be direct.**



Tip for “Bob”



Be a word ninja.



3. I'm not that smart.

IQ doesn't help that much.

Pet Peeves

0. porn.



Stages of typical relationships:

0. unknown
1. strangers
2. acquaintances
3. friends
4. dating
5. boyfriend/girlfriend
6. engaged
7. married

1. Insisting you're right when you aren't.



**Learn to admit
when you're wrong.**

2. “only jerks get women”





WINTERFEST

TOURNAMENT

**You can play their game
without
becoming one of them.**

Don't Be Creepy

<http://dontbecreepy.com/>