

It's time to answer some more of your questions! Sadly and yet again, there will be no conversations with people from alternate universes. It's just too complicated and time consuming messaging people/aliens so far away. I'll be sticking to Earth, but the planet is still pretty big, right? Let's gooo!

First up we have a question from Professional Penelope, who is in a cool office at the top of a sky scraper... (THAT'S professional).

Penelope: I understand that you've been fired from voluntary social work and real social work, and that's the only employment you've had. (Other than voluntary music reviewing). Why did you get sacked?

Simon: Great question! I was annoying everyone in the former and in the latter everyone thought I was an asshole.

Next we have a question from Gym Fan Gerry, living illegally at the local gym.

Gerry: What's your favourite thing to do at the gym, and what do you think that says about you?

Simon: I like running because I find it to be one of the easiest things to do when working out. I think that suggests in a fight or flight situation, my best option is to leg it. Some people are just very big.

Next up is Logical Larry from house number 32. (Next to 31 and 33).

Larry: Why isn't phoenix spelt pheonix?

Simon: Just ignore them.

Larry: Ignore who?

Simon: The Greeks. What do they know about language/myths? They're trolling you.

Larry: Ok. I have another question: Why do people say 'cold as a stone'? Stones can be all sorts of temperatures. It's like saying 'wet as a brick', it doesn't make sense.

Simon: Damn Greeks.

Larry: No, I think stone is an English word... (So the phrase is, too).

Simon: Is it an adaption of a Greek word?

Larry: No, it seems to come from the German word 'stein'... Your name's German isn't it?

Simon: Yes, but Germany is always cold, so the phrase 'cold as a stein' makes perfect sense. There's nothing wrong with Germany. You were right, cold a stone doesn't make sense, here.

Larry: No, I don't Germany is always cold...

Simon: It is.

Larry: Ok, I'll move on. After I point out Greece is famous for cartography and map making. (According to the internet). You shouldn't underestimate the country.

Simon: I don't know what cartography is, but I know you're trying to make me realise without maps, I'd be screwed.

Larry: Right...

Simon: Well whatever. I've just done some Googling and cartography is map making. It's like saying Greece is famous for map making and map making.

Larry: Bye.

Excited Edith, Norway: I've just Googled and it turns out there are no articles with the exact phrase 'Proper teas properties'!

Simon: I'm happy for you. That sounds like quite the company. Whatever it would be.

Edith: Thx!

Clothes Blogger, USA: I understand you've bought some new socks?

Simon: Yep, six pairs. Apparently they're athletic socks, which sounds interesting. Having put them on, I can't say I have more energy or feel any stronger, but as false advertising is a crime, I'll take the company's word for it.

E.T., Stuck on Earth, again: I understand you have an interesting method of coming up with names for aliens?

Simon: Yep, all you have to do is reverse some words. For example the following sounds alien, doesn't it? Stunaepdetlas. (Pronounced 'Stunna-ep-det-lass'). The eagle eyed will note it's the backwards version of salted peanuts. Speaking of things in reverse, how's this for a band name?: 'G 63'? It has a nice ring to it, right? Actually its how much my crisps weigh. (36 grams).

Healthy Harry, the clean-air countryside: Why have your vitamin D tablets been discontinued? (Or so it would seem).

Simon: I don't know. I couldn't find them online or in shops, so I got the same kind of vitamins in different packaging. Maybe some hostile takeover has happened, but that's not exactly the kind of behaviour I'd expect from a company so apparently harmless. I'm not sure if I trust vitamins anymore.

Harry: You're not suggesting the ingredients could be shady?

Simon: Well let's face facts - Vitamin D comes from the sun. How are you supposed

to put the sun into tablets? Sounds shady to me.

Harry: I've heard of ice cream men scaring off other ice cream men. Ice cream wars. :S

Simon: Well there you go then.

Harry: I've never heard of curry wars, though.

Simon: I think the sugar just drives people crazy. It's an addiction.

Curious Kelly, Canada: Why is it that blue is pretty much the only colour described in music?

Simon: I'm not sure. Gary Moore's 'Still got the Blues' is a bit of a cliché, but 'Still got the Greens' sounds wrong. It suggests disease.

Kelly: That's more disturbing than sad...

Simon: Right.

Kelly: We've all heard of black metal, I wonder what orange metal would be?...

Simon: Well there's a heavy metal band called Orange Goblin. I'm sure they're good, but I wouldn't want a whole genre where people copy them.

Kelly: I wonder what yellow music would be...

Simon: Too cheerful. Not interested.

Linda the Linguist, London: 'Boredom' is a relatively modern word. I wonder how people expressed the mood before it...

Simon: I have no idea. It would be like 'I want to go home.' 'Why?' 'I don't know...'

Linda the Linguist, now in Luxembourg: How do you pronounce your second name?

Simon: Not sure. Maybe Videman?

Linda: Simon Videman? That sounds like a joke name.

Simon: No it doesn't.

Ok, that should be it from me for a while, as I have some story writing to do, and (hopefully) some music reviewing. 'What do you mean by 'hopefully'?' Don't worry, I haven't been sacked again, my boss is away at the moment. Byeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!