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Remimeo  
Student HatCANCELS  
HCO BULLETIN OF 3 DECEMBER 1972  
SAME TITLESTUDENT COMM LAG ON  
CHECKOUTS

The rule of flunking a student for comm lag on checkouts can result in conflict and upsets if mis-interpreted.

In a checkout you are establishing A. does the student know the data and B. can he apply it. The factor of comm lag establishes the difference between a full and proper understanding of the data or a poor and fumbling grasp. The fumbler would not be able to apply the data well and would be a slow study until he gets the words better defined and the data sorted out with demonstration and examples. It would be an unkindness not to flunk the comm lagger.

But the rule itself can be mis-applied by one who has "comm lag" misdefined. The definition (from the book Dianetics (R) 55) is THE LENGTH OF TIME INTERVENING BETWEEN THE POSING OF A QUESTION; OR ORIGINATION OF A STATEMENT, AND THE EXACT MOMENT THAT QUESTION OR ORIGINAL STATEMENT IS ANSWERED.

Read Chapter ten of Dianetics 55 for a full description and understanding of this.

Some students have been flunking for answers as follows:

Question: "What is your name?" Answer: "My name is Joe Brown."

Question: "What is a rabbit?" Answer: "It is a long eared short tailed mammal with soft fur."

In these examples the words underlined were considered extraneous and therefore as comm lag. But the person was answering the question, not doing something else, and did know the answer without fumbling. These examples, and their many variations are not valid flunks. Such pedantry would serve no purpose other than to upset the student.

Get the difference between the above examples and this:

Question: "What is a rabbit?" Answer: "Well....."

er...let me see...it's a sort of a, well it's a small brown animal with long ears and I think it has a short tail."

That is comm lag and should have been flunked after the first "well...er..." as he isn't answering the question.

Flunking a student who does know the answer, is answering, and can apply the data can lead to blows. So can leaving a student with misunderstands or only a fumbling grasp of the materials.

Bear in mind the purpose of checkouts, understand the definition and use of comm lag, read it up fully in Dianetics 55 if you have any uncertainty and do it right.

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