Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

1.

#### **Body**

1.

You have begun to give (9-10a)

1.

Faith: Taught by God

1.

First, you have begun to give. Paul speaks first of the reason for, then of the fact of, your giving. First, the reason you have begun to give is that you have been " taught by God to love one another. " Paul says this

in v. 9, saying,

-

"9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another."

#### Paul didn't need to remind the

Thessalonians of their basic Gospel-duty to love one another, because God Himself was teaching them to do so. Paul is not here denying that the Thessalonians need any teaching whatsoever, for clearly Paul is teaching them about many things throughout this epistle, and even about their duty to love one another. But Paul is speaking about the fact that God has already begun to give them a working faith, and a laboring love. In giving them faith in Christ as their Savior, God has taught them to love one another, and so now their love has begun to labor, even under persecution, even being willing to suffer so that others might gospel and be saved. In contrast to the Old Covenant, where people would look into the mirror of God's law and then forget its requirements for their lives, now in the New Covenant God in fact writes the law on the hearts of His people, as He promised in **Jer** emiah 31:33-34

2 / 1272

, saying

"I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it."

The New Covenant in Christ is the fulfillment of **Is. 54**, where God says this to His needy, afflicted people, in **v.** 

1

•

"Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; For the sons of the desolate one will be **more** 

#### numerous

Than the sons of the married woman, " says the LORD.

And in **vv. 11-13**,

storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And your foundations I will lay in sapphires. 12 " Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal,

be great.

And your entire wall of precious stones. 13 "All your sons will be taught of the LORD
And the well-being of your sons

"

will

In the restoration of His people, in the New Covenant,

and in the salvation He would bring through Jesus Christ, God said "Your sons will be taught of the This Lord. is what God is doing for us now, writing His holy law on our hearts by giving holy hearts in our regeneration, and now by sanctifying us, making us more holy, throughout the rest of our lives. We are taught

#### by God.

\_

#### Love: You do practice it

1 .

But not only are you taught to love one another, Paul says, but "indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren."

Paul says this in v. 10a

"

"10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia."

Paul told us about the way the Thessalonians had shown love to the brothers throughout Macedonia in ch. 1 :6-10

, where he

#### says

"6 You also became imitator of us

#### and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you

became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has

#### sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has

# gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

Now how did the word of the Lord sound forth from the Thessalonian

church? Certainly, both in their words and their deeds. But partly through the grace of giving.

### Turn with me to 2 Cor. 8 where Paul says the churches of Macedonia generously

gave of their money for the work of the Lord The three key churches in Macedonia were in Berea,

### Philippi, and Thessalonica. The Philippian church was the first to give, but undoubtedly the

#### others followed (cf. Philippians 4:15). This means the way the Thessalonians

#### practiced love for the brethren was specifically that they gave of their own material possessions to

# help support their needy neighbors.

1

Paul says in 2 Cor. 8:1-7

5

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# "Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you

### the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia 2 that in a

## great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in

the wealth of their liberality. 3 For testify that according to their ability, and beyond

their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the

#### favor of participation in the support of saints, the 5 and this, not as we had expected, but

# they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus

#### that as he had previously made a beginning, so would he also complete in you this

## gracious work as well. 7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and

# knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that

# abound in this gracious work also

"

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

The NIV translates this last phrase "e xcel in this

#### grace of giving Even though they were in deep poverty,

" Paul says, the Macedonians gave out of the overflow of their joy in

#### Christ, so that they could contribute to the support of the saints, as

V. 4 says. And so Paul exhorts the Corinthians, who were

more wealthy

#### than the Thessalonians to show the sincerity of their love by doing just as the

# Thessalonians have done, as he says in vv. 8-9

J

"8 I am not speaking this as a command,

#### but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of

#### your love also For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus

#### Christ, that though He was rich , yet for your sake He

#### became poor that , **SO** you through His poverty

# might become rich

"

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# You see, just as Jesus Christ gave

#### up the great riches of glory and honor which he had at His Father's right

#### hand in heaven in order to humble himself, to take on

#### human flesh and be made in the likeness of a man, in order that we

#### might receive in death His and resurrection the riches of

#### salvation from our sins, so now Christ calls you to give of

#### yourselves self-sacrificia order lly in that your brothers and sisters in

#### Christ may come to know Him, to love Him, to be saved from their

#### sins, and to be delivered from some of the misery of this life. God

#### has begun to give you a real, laboring, hardworking love for your

#### brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for all those whom God may call

#### through your efforts to share His salvation, but now you must

#### prove the sin cerity of your love by giving from your heart, by

#### giving of your life, of your resources, that others might be

saved. Will **you** excel in this grace of giving

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# You see, God has blessed you

#### so that you will be a blessing. Now in the New Covenant

#### God is fulfilling the promise He made to Abraham in Gen.

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

12:2-3
saying

Will make you agreat nation, d will

## bless you, And make your name great; And

### so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless

## those who bless you, And the one who curses you

### Will curse. And in you all the families of the earth

## will be blessed.&q uot;

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### And God

#### promised to His people in Deut. 28:12-14

#### that if they Would keep His command

#### ments, then He would make them

#### blessing to all nations, saying

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12

"Th

#### e LORD will open tor you His good

#### storehous e, the heavens, to give

## rain to your land in its

season

#### and to bless all the work of

#### Vour hand; and you shall

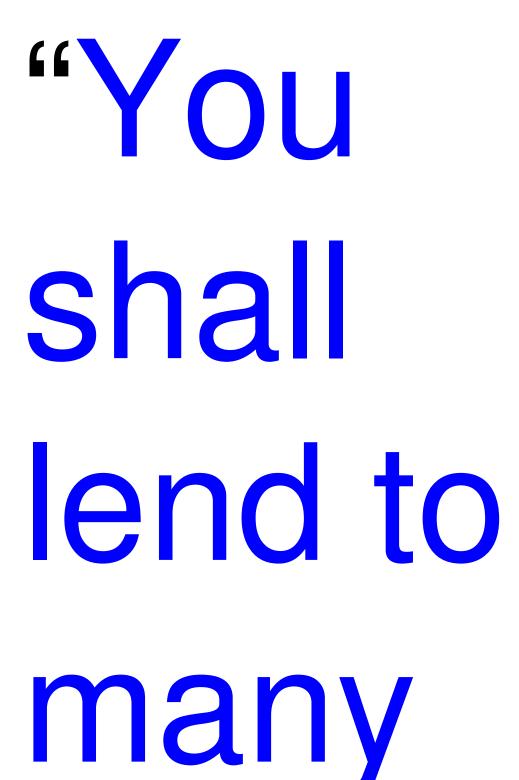
#### lend to many nations, but you

### shall not borrow.

"

#### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07



#### nations, but you shall not borrow.

#### Do you hear what this

iS

#### saying'? In Christ God has given

#### Vou all things, but more than that,

#### we count all things to be loss in

### view of the

#### surpassi ng value

of knowing

Christ

Jesus

## our Lord. God

does

# bless us, spiritually as well

as

#### materiall VIN this life, and in

#### view of this let us not Cling

#### selfishly to what He gives us, but

#### rather gladly give of these

#### blessings to those who are in ned.

#### ls this benevole nt spirit not the

### heart of what God

#### ded His people to have in Deut.

#### 15:6ff

?

God

Says

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#### there,

&quot, F or the 

#### your God will bless

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# He has promise

you, and

# you will lend to

many
nations,

## but you will not borrow; and

# you will rule over

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nations,

#### but they will not rule over

you.

7

"If there is

a poor

## man with you, one ot your

## brothers, in any of your towns in

#### your land which the

#### 

your Godis giving

# you, you shall not harden

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#### heart,

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# brother, 8 but you shall freely

### open your hand to him, and

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brother,

## and you give him nothing; then he

## may cry to the against

# you, and it will be a sin in VOU. 10

# "You shall

#### generou

## sly give to him, and your heart

#### shall not

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## you give to him, because for this

# thing the LORD

# your God will

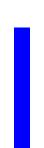
## bless you in all your WORK

#### and in all

your undertak ings. 11

#### " F the Or poor will never

## cease to be in the land; therefore



#### comman

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you,

## sayıng, 'You shall freely

# open your hand to

your

## brother, to your nedy and poor

# in your land.'

#### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07 Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07



## to give more (10b-11)

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1.

And

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## more clothing, more hospitali

ty, more of Christ's love,

# more of the

gospel, and

## more of the ministry of the

## church, to those Who ned

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you.

## Paul exhorts ou to do just

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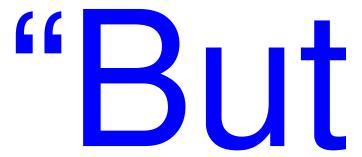
## this in 1 Thess. 4:10-11

5

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### saying,

1.



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#### brethre

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2

#### Paul

#### exhorts

you,

then, to "WORK to give

#### more.

"

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3.

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grace of Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

## giving.

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#### But

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### Paul

# exhorts

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### **you**

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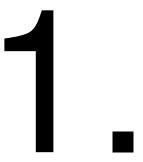
# them in

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2:8-9

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289 / 1272

#### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07 Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

2

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# GIVING.

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3:6-13



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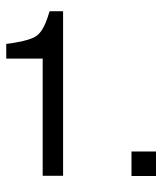
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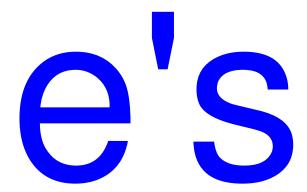
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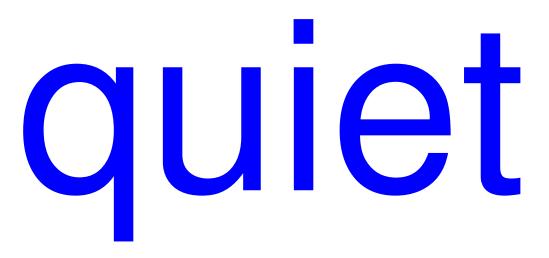
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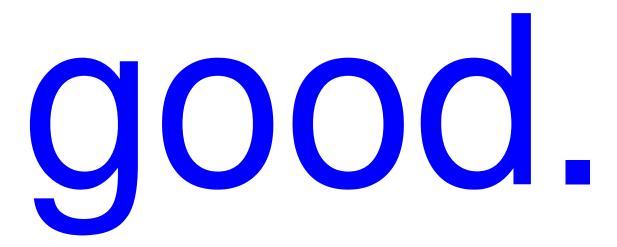
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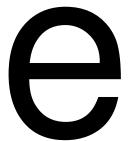
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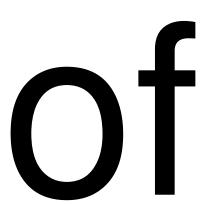
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### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

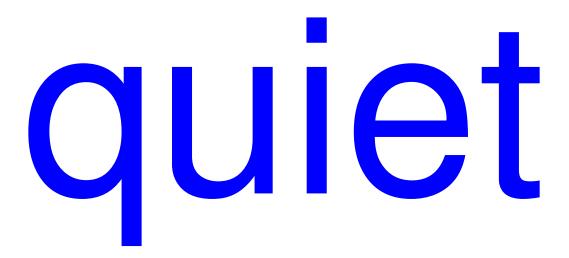
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### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

### 1 Th. 4:9-12 - Excel in the Grace of Giving

Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07

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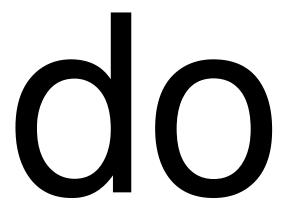
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Written by Tim Black Monday, 02 April 2007 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 April 2007 20:07



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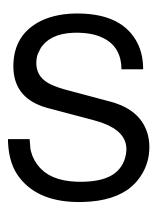
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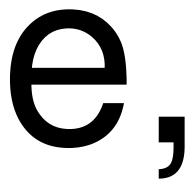
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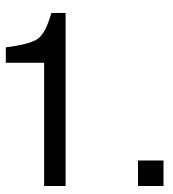
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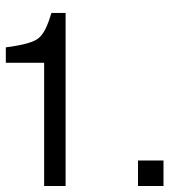
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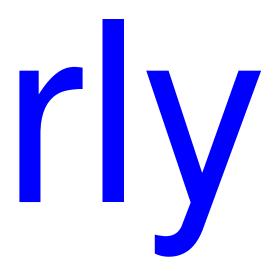
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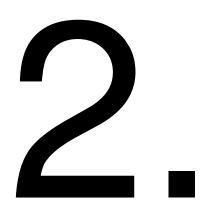
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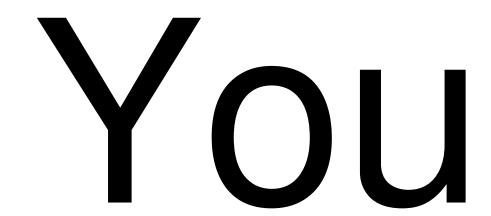
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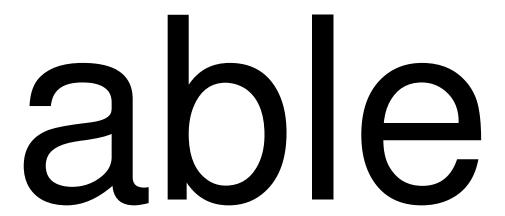
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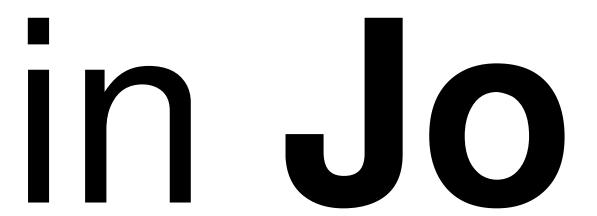
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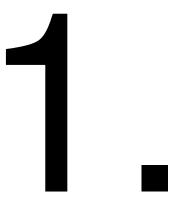
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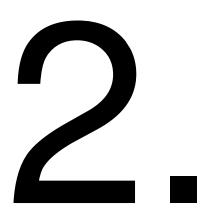
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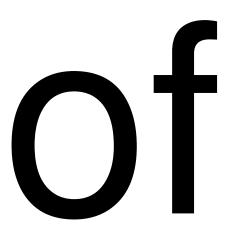
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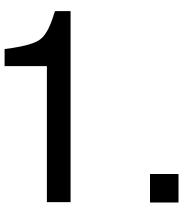
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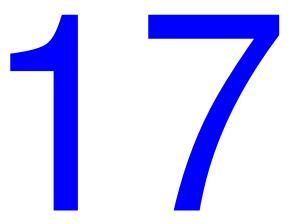






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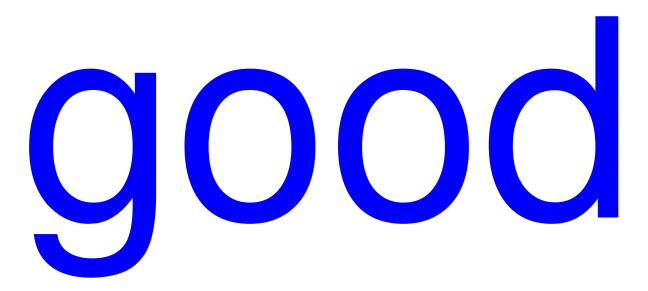








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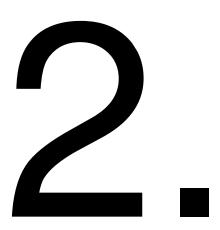
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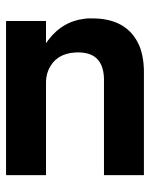
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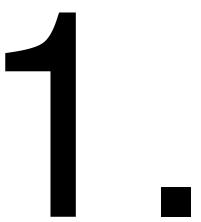


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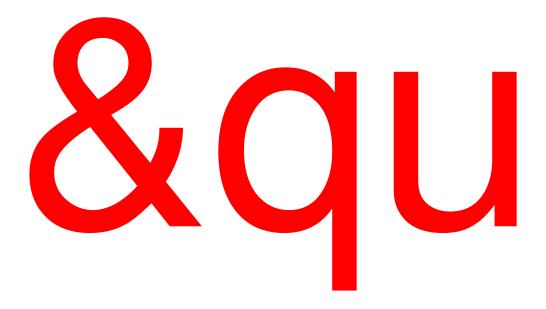


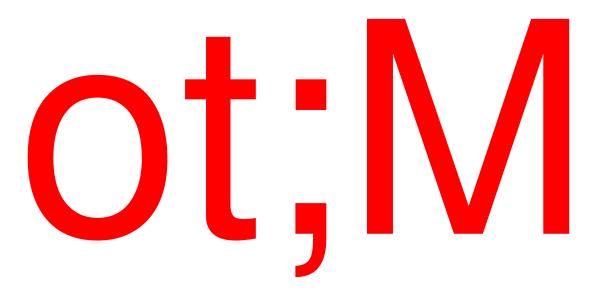
























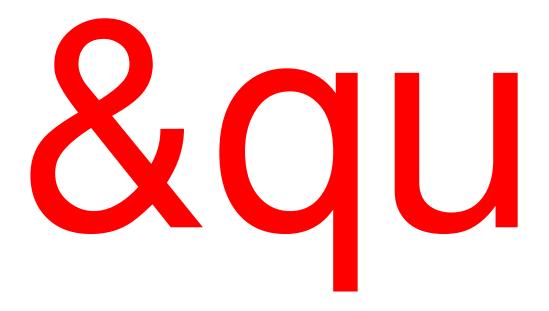
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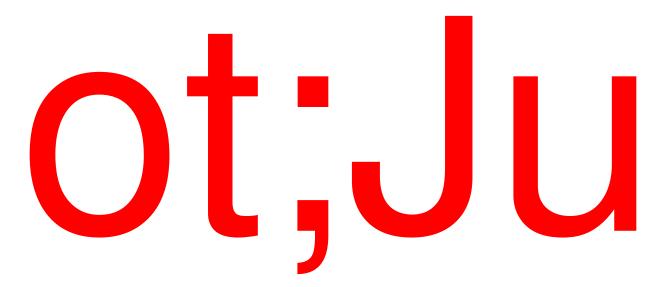












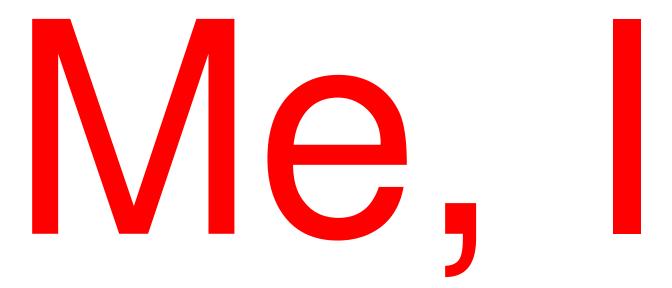
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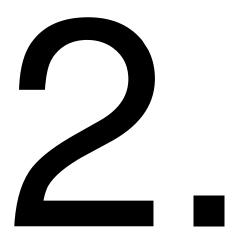






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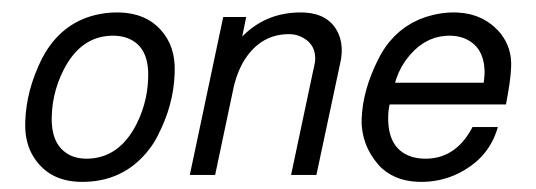
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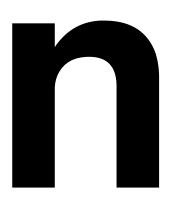




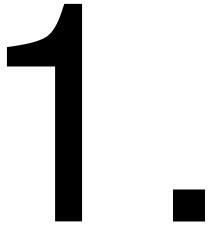
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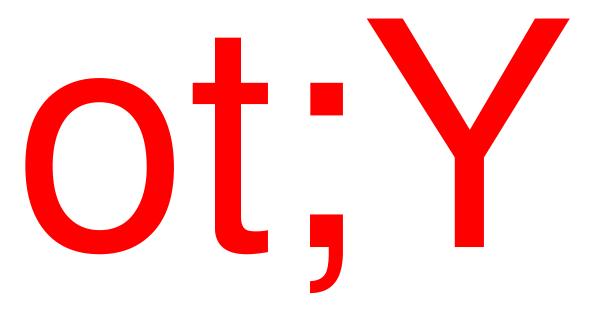






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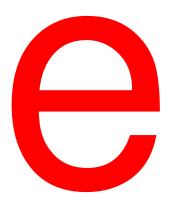














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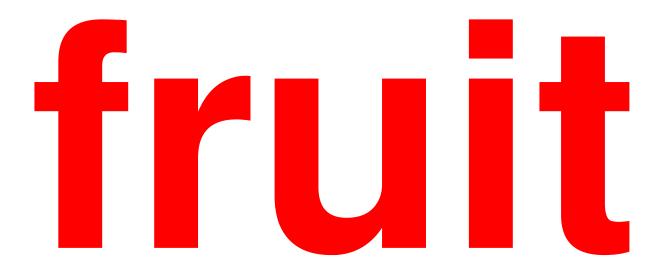
















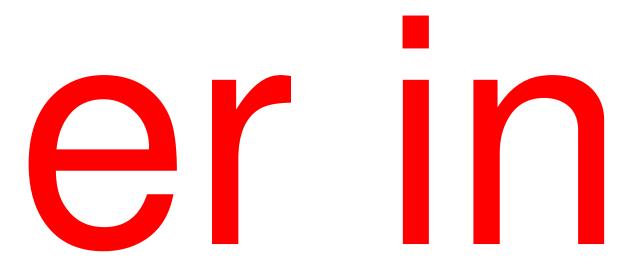












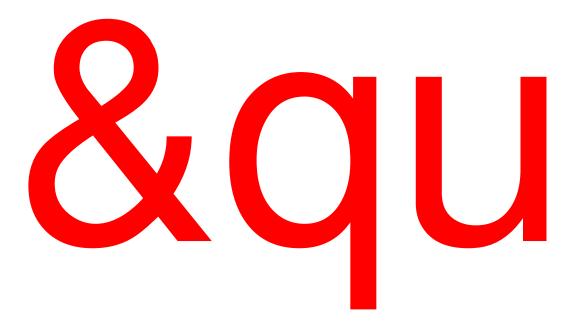














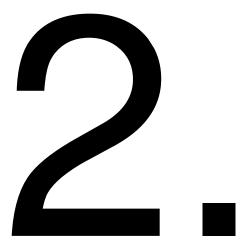














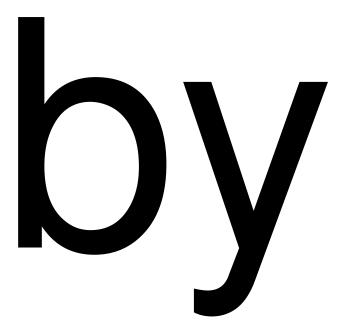
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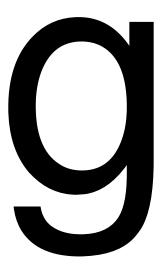


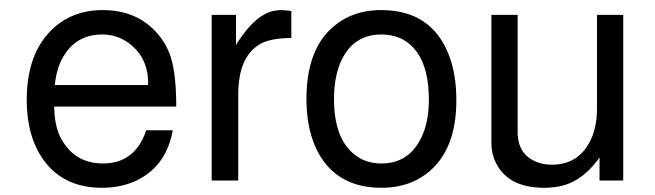


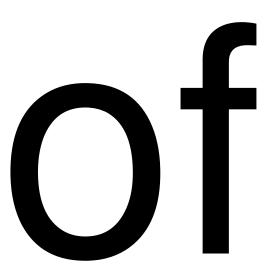
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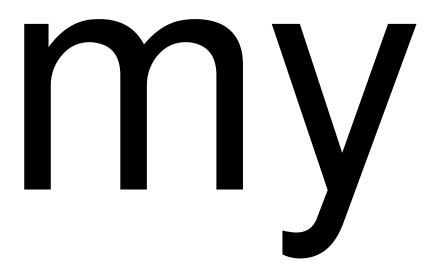


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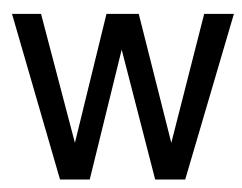
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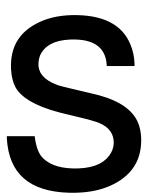




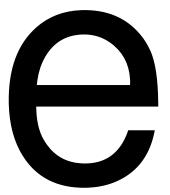
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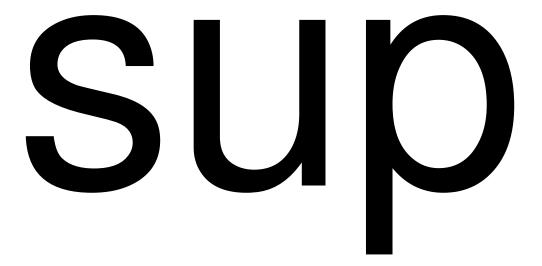


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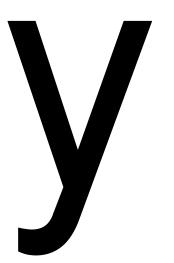


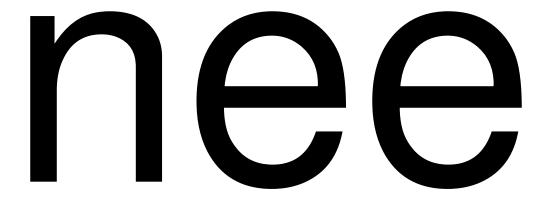




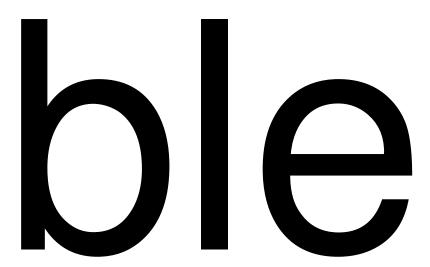
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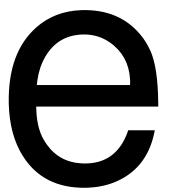


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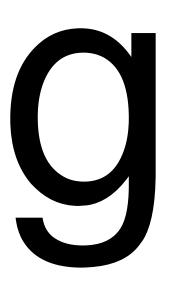




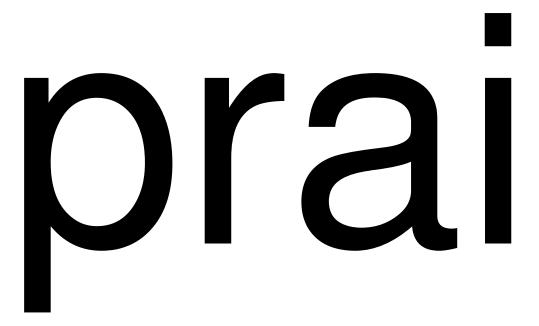


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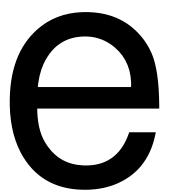






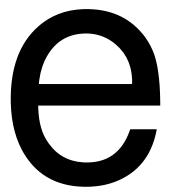








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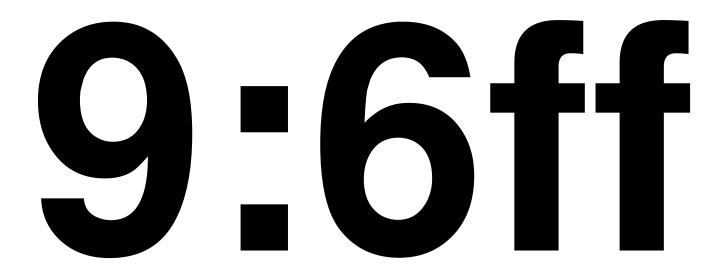




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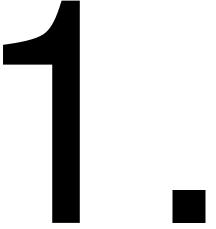






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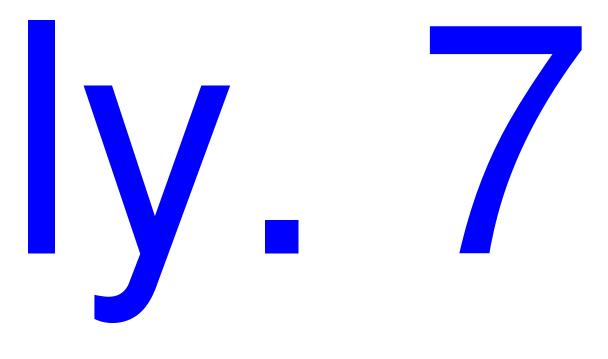




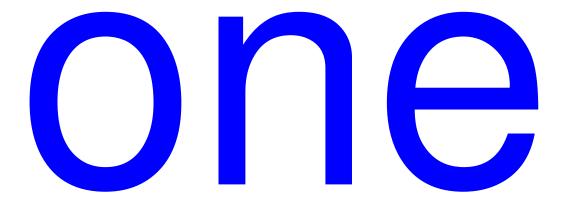


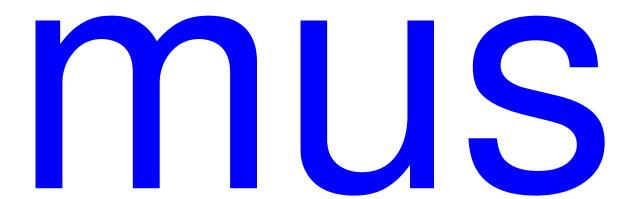


























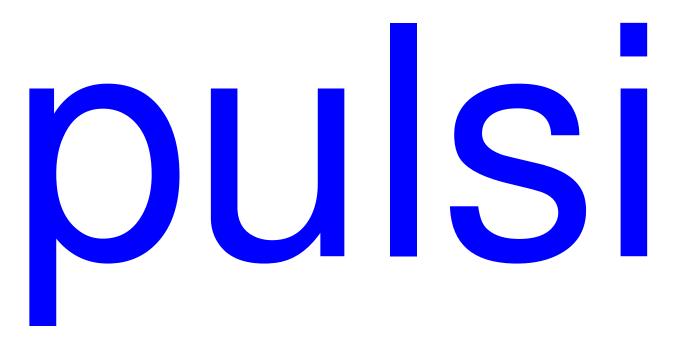
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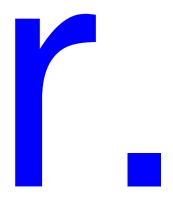


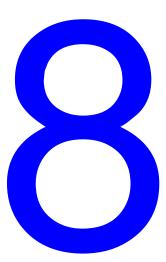








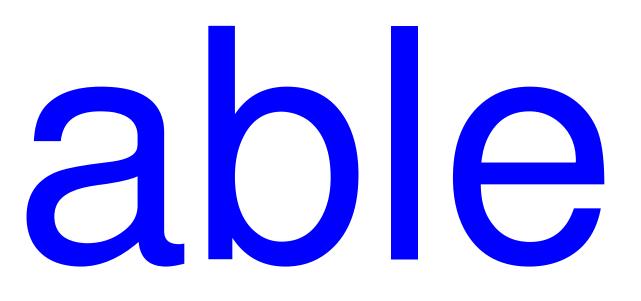






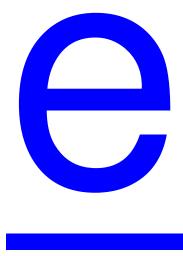
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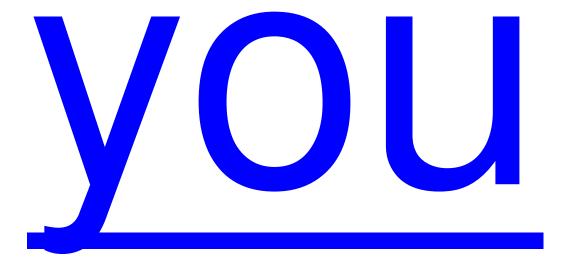






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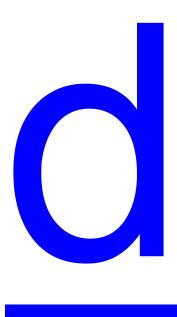


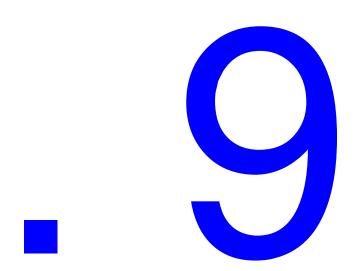






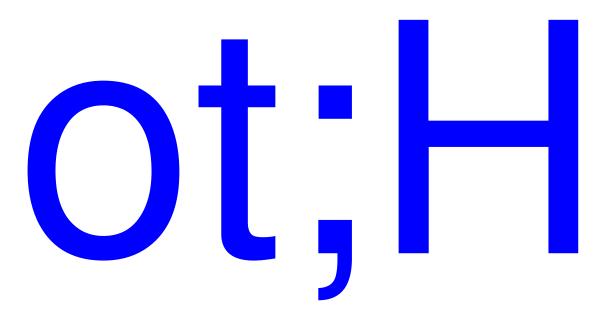


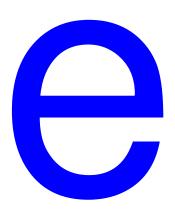




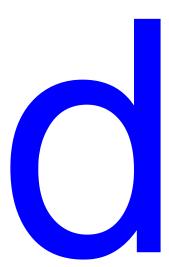


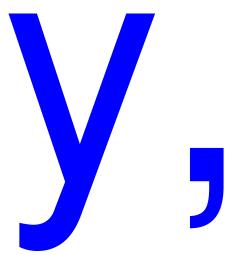




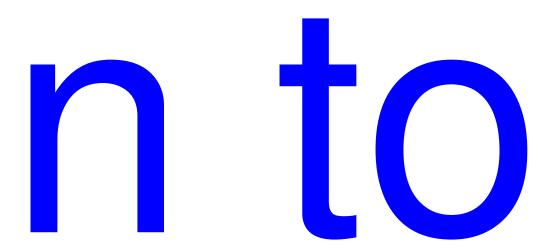




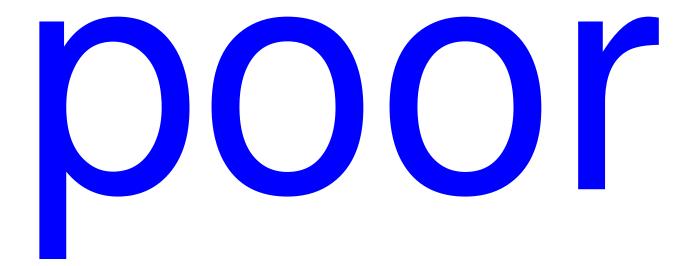














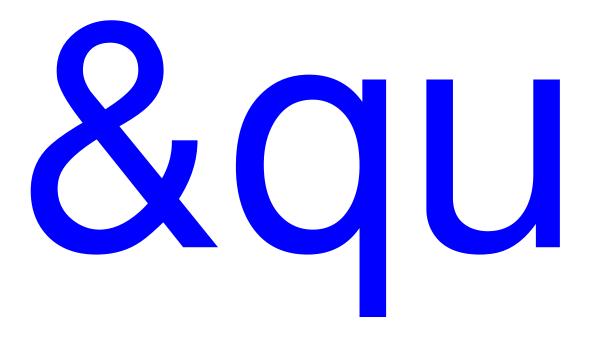
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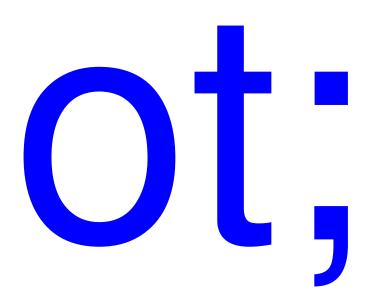
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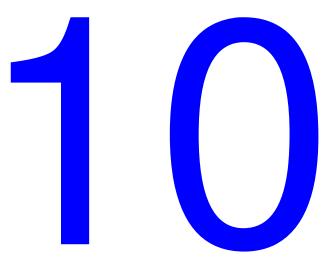
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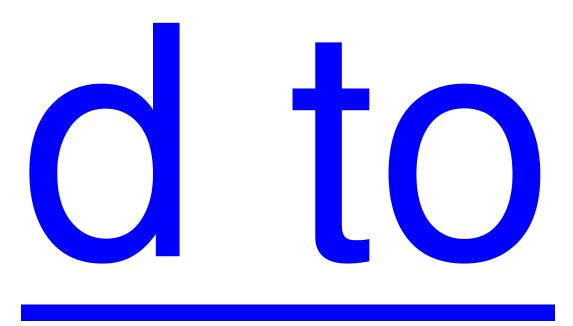


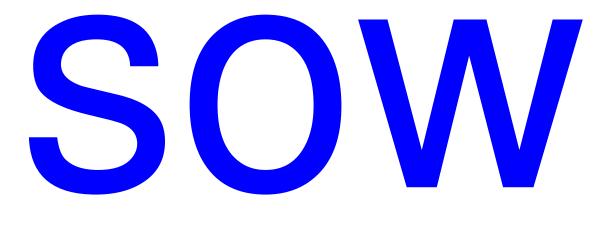










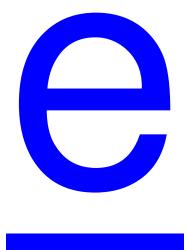


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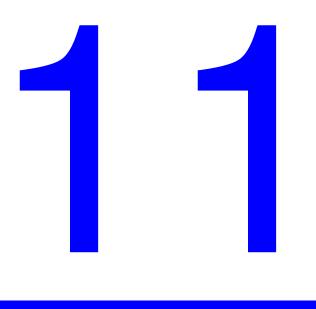








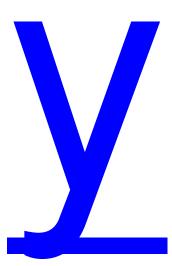
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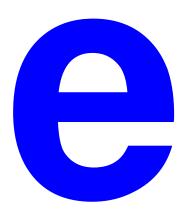






















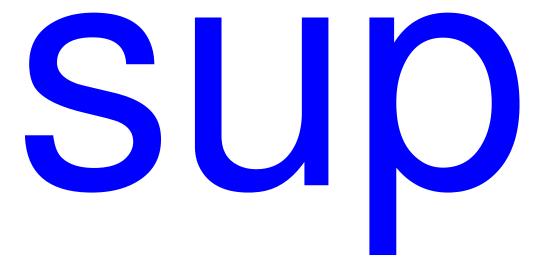






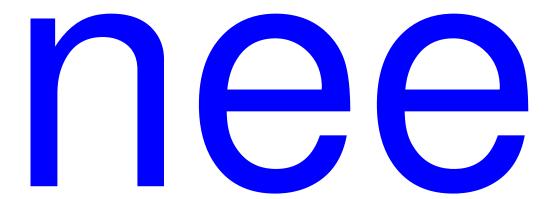








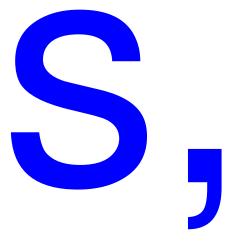


















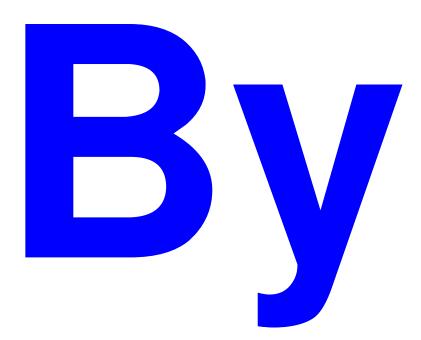


























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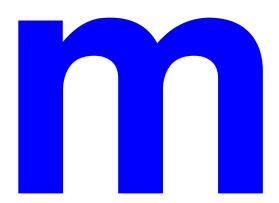


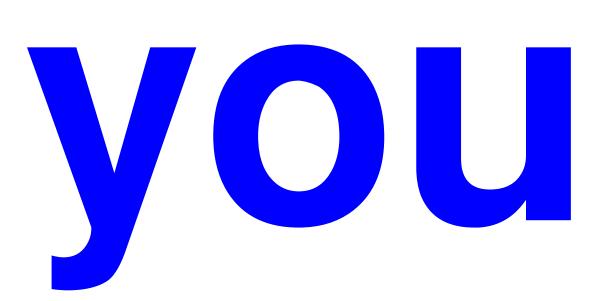












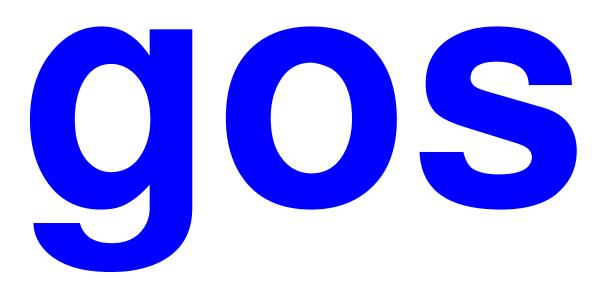


















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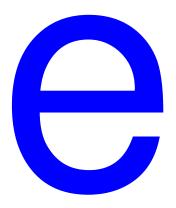




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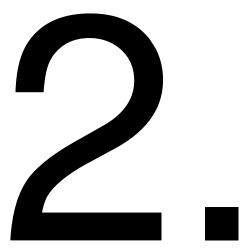






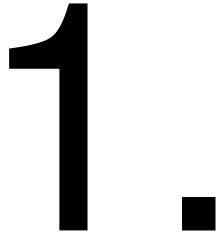














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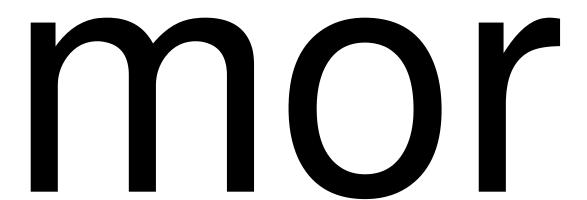
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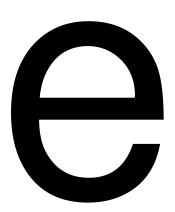


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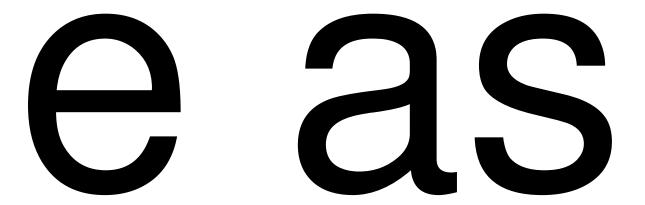
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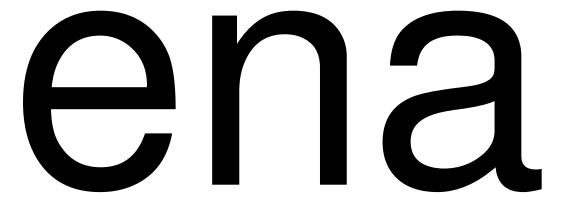
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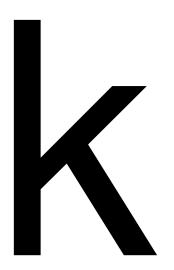


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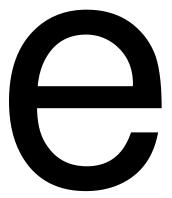




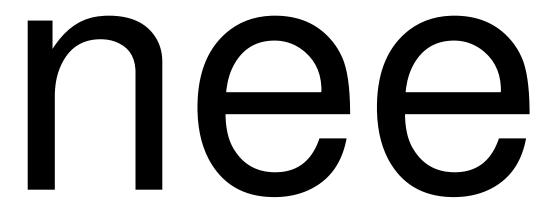






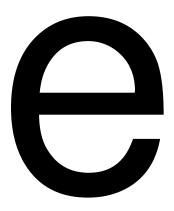


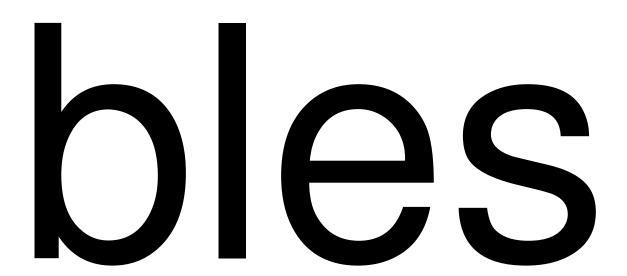




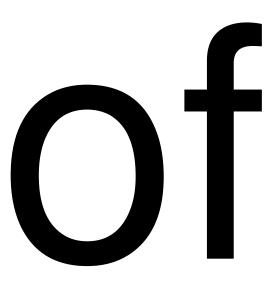








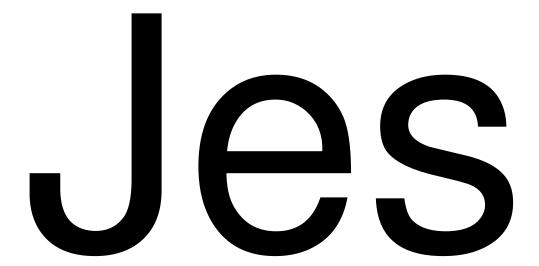


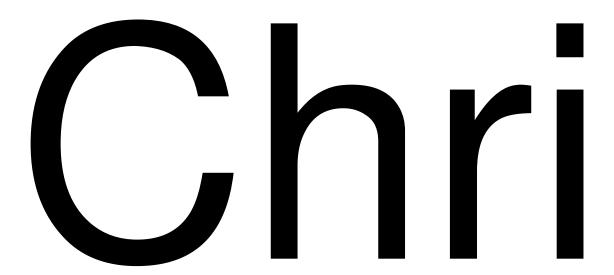




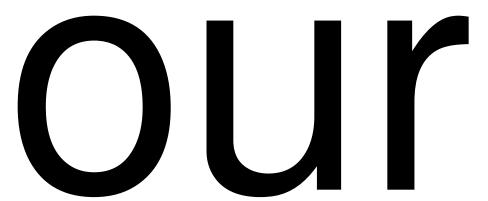
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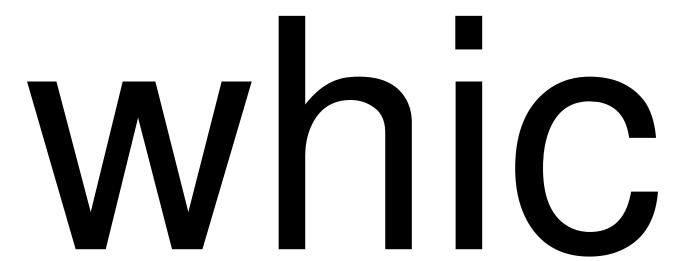
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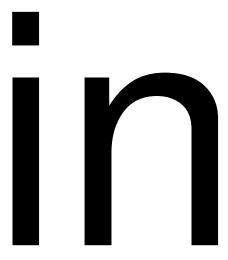
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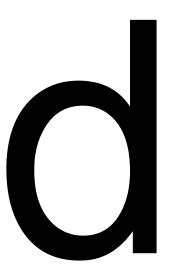


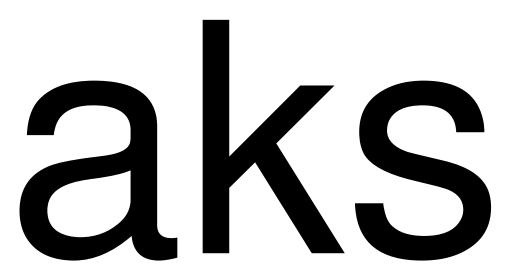
















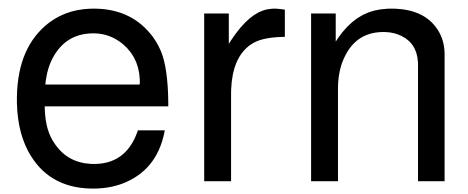


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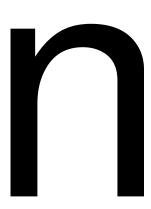


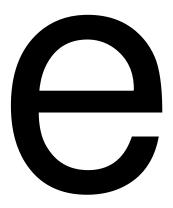














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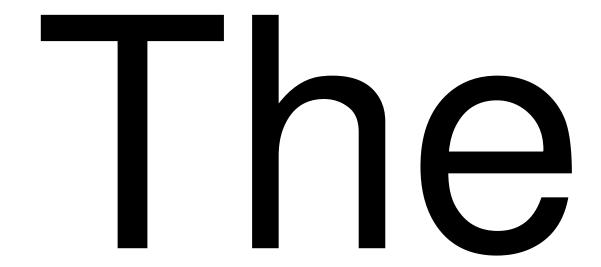


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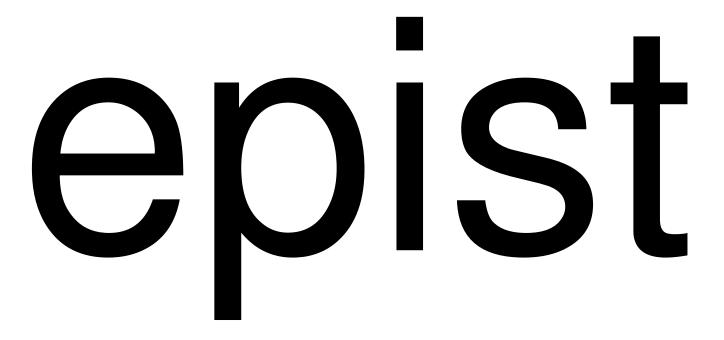


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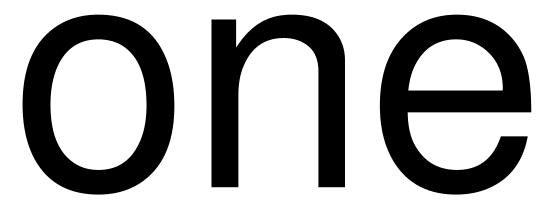


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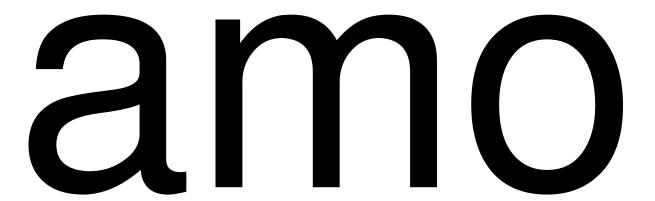


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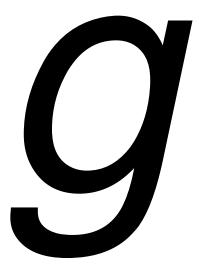
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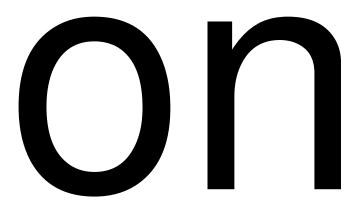




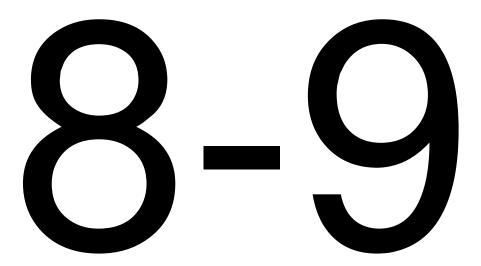
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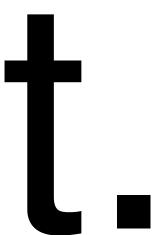
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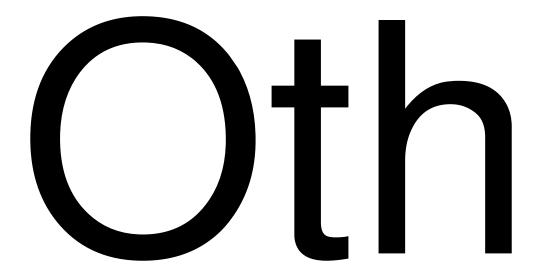










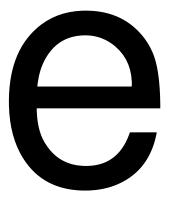




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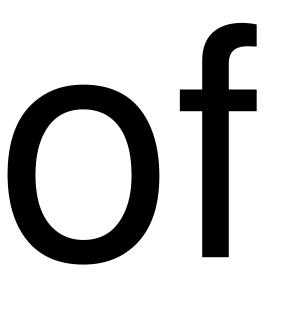
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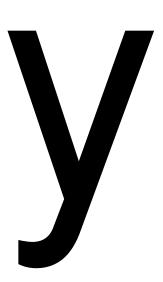
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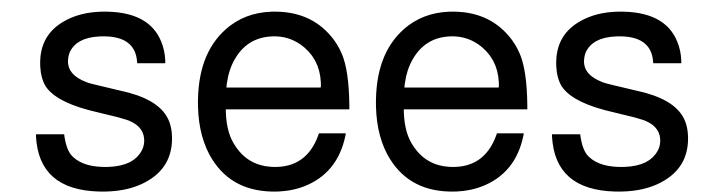








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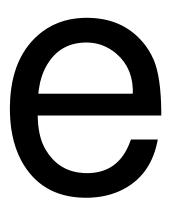




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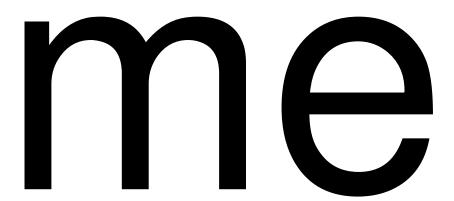
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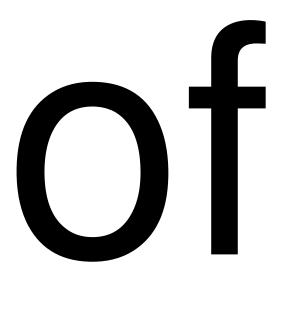


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