

# Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey

Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey Intercultural communication has become an essential component of our increasingly globalized world. As societies become more interconnected through travel, trade, technology, and migration, understanding how individuals from different cultural backgrounds communicate is vital for fostering effective relationships, avoiding misunderstandings, and promoting mutual respect. One of the leading scholars in this field is Ting Toomey, whose work has significantly contributed to our comprehension of intercultural interactions. In this article, we will explore the fundamentals of intercultural communication, the key theories and concepts proposed by Ting Toomey, and practical strategies to improve intercultural competence.

**What Is Intercultural Communication?** Intercultural communication refers to the process of exchanging information between individuals or groups from different cultural backgrounds. It involves understanding how cultural values, beliefs, norms, and practices influence communication styles, perceptions, and behaviors. Effective intercultural communication enables individuals to navigate cultural differences successfully, build relationships, and collaborate across cultural boundaries.

**The Significance of Intercultural Communication**

- Globalization:** As businesses expand internationally, intercultural communication becomes crucial for negotiations, marketing, and management.
- Migration:** Increased migration leads to multicultural communities where understanding different cultural perspectives is essential for social cohesion.
- Technology:** Digital communication platforms connect people worldwide, making intercultural competence important for virtual interactions.
- Conflict Resolution:** Recognizing

cultural differences can prevent misunderstandings and resolve conflicts effectively. Ting Toomey and the Development of Intercultural Communication Theory Ting Toomey is a distinguished scholar whose research has profoundly shaped contemporary understanding of intercultural communication. Her work primarily focuses on identity management, facework, and intercultural sensitivity. Toomey's contributions have provided frameworks that help individuals and organizations navigate cultural differences with greater awareness and respect. Key Concepts and Theories by Ting Toomey 1. Facework and Face Negotiation Theory One of Toomey's central contributions is her work on facework, which refers to the strategies individuals use to maintain their self- image or "face" during social interactions. Her Face Negotiation Theory explores how cultural values influence face concerns and conflict management styles. - Collectivist Cultures: Tend to prioritize harmony, face-saving, and group cohesion. - Individualist Cultures: Often value self-expression, directness, and personal autonomy. Implication: Understanding face concerns helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes respectful communication across cultures. 2. Intercultural Sensitivity and the Development of Intercultural Competence Toomey emphasizes that intercultural sensitivity involves recognizing and respecting cultural differences without prejudice. Her model suggests that developing intercultural competence requires: - Awareness: Recognizing one's own cultural biases and assumptions. - Knowledge: Gaining information about other cultures' norms and values. - Skills: Applying appropriate communication behaviors in intercultural situations. - Attitudes: Cultivating openness, curiosity, and empathy. 3. Identity Management in Multicultural Contexts Toomey also explores how individuals navigate their identities in intercultural interactions, balancing multiple cultural affiliations and adapting communication styles accordingly. This includes understanding cultural identity salience and how it influences perceptions and responses. Challenges in Intercultural Communication Despite the benefits, intercultural communication presents various challenges, such as: Language Barriers: Differences in language proficiency and idiomatic expressions can cause

misunderstandings. Cultural Assumptions: Assuming one's cultural norms are universal leads to misinterpretations. Non-verbal Miscommunication: Gestures, facial expressions, and body language vary across cultures. Ethnocentrism: Viewing one's culture as superior hampers open-minded interactions. Understanding these challenges is the first step towards developing effective intercultural communication strategies. Strategies to Enhance Intercultural Communication Skills Improving intercultural competence involves deliberate practice and openness. Here are some practical strategies based on Toomey's principles:

1. Cultivate Cultural Awareness and Openness - Engage in cultural education and exposure. - Reflect on personal biases and stereotypes. - Approach interactions with curiosity rather than judgment.
2. Develop Active Listening Skills - Pay attention to both verbal and non-verbal cues. - Clarify misunderstandings promptly. - Show genuine interest in the other person's perspective.
3. Adapt Communication Styles - Be flexible in your communication approach. - Use clear, simple language when necessary. - Respect cultural norms related to politeness, formality, and directness.
4. Practice Empathy and Respect - Recognize and validate cultural differences. - Avoid ethnocentric attitudes. - Build trust through respectful engagement.
5. Engage in Cross-cultural Experiences - Participate in intercultural events and activities. - Seek out diverse social networks. - Continuously learn about different cultures and perspectives.

The Role of Organizations and Institutions Organizations play a crucial role in fostering intercultural competence through:

- Training programs: Providing intercultural communication workshops.
- Diversity policies: Promoting inclusive practices and cultural sensitivity.
- Leadership commitment: Encouraging a culture of openness and respect.

Educational institutions can integrate intercultural communication into curricula to prepare students for global citizenship. Conclusion Understanding intercultural communication, especially through the lens of Ting Toomey's work, is essential for navigating our interconnected world. Her theories on facework, intercultural sensitivity, and identity management provide valuable frameworks for individuals and organizations alike. By developing awareness, skills, and respect for cultural

differences, we can foster more effective, respectful, and enriching intercultural interactions. Embracing cultural diversity not only enhances personal growth but also contributes to harmonious global communities. Keywords for SEO optimization: - Intercultural communication - Ting Toomey - Facework and face negotiation theory - Intercultural sensitivity - Cultural competence - Cross-cultural communication strategies - 4 Intercultural communication challenges - Developing intercultural skills - Multicultural understanding QuestionAnswer Who is Ting Toomey and what is her contribution to intercultural communication? Ting Toomey is a renowned scholar in intercultural communication best known for developing the Anxiety/Uncertainty Management (AUM) Theory, which explains how individuals effectively communicate across cultures by managing anxiety and uncertainty. What is the core concept of Ting Toomey's Anxiety/Uncertainty Management Theory? The core concept of AUM Theory is that effective intercultural communication depends on individuals' ability to manage their anxiety and uncertainty during interactions with people from different cultural backgrounds. How does Ting Toomey's research impact practical intercultural communication strategies? Her research provides strategies for reducing anxiety and uncertainty, enabling individuals to communicate more effectively across cultures, which is valuable in international business, diplomacy, and multicultural societies. In what ways does Ting Toomey's work address cultural differences in communication styles? Ting Toomey's work emphasizes understanding and adapting to different cultural communication norms, helping individuals navigate differences while minimizing misunderstandings and fostering mutual respect. What are some common challenges in intercultural communication identified by Ting Toomey? Common challenges include managing anxiety about the unknown, misinterpreting cultural cues, and overcoming stereotypes, all of which can hinder effective understanding between cultures. How can individuals apply Ting Toomey's theories to improve their intercultural communication skills? Individuals can apply her theories by becoming aware of their own levels of anxiety, practicing active listening, and developing cultural competence to

better manage uncertainty and foster positive interactions. What role does cultural awareness play in Ting Toomey's approach to intercultural communication? Cultural awareness is fundamental in her approach, as understanding cultural differences helps reduce anxiety and uncertainty, making cross-cultural interactions smoother and more successful. Are there any criticisms or limitations of Ting Toomey's AUM Theory? Some critics argue that AUM Theory may oversimplify complex intercultural interactions and that managing anxiety and uncertainty alone may not address all cultural misunderstandings or power dynamics involved. 5 How has Ting Toomey's work influenced current research and practice in intercultural communication? Her work has significantly influenced the field by highlighting the importance of emotional regulation and cognitive flexibility, leading to more nuanced approaches to training and preparing individuals for intercultural encounters. Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey Intercultural communication is an essential field of study that explores how people from different cultural backgrounds communicate, interact, and interpret messages. Among the leading scholars contributing to this discipline is Stella Ting-Toomey, whose work has significantly advanced our understanding of intercultural dynamics. In this comprehensive review, we will delve into the core concepts, frameworks, and applications of Ting-Toomey's theories on intercultural communication, providing a nuanced perspective on how culture influences communication processes. ---

Introduction to Intercultural Communication Intercultural communication refers to the exchange of information between individuals or groups from different cultural backgrounds. It encompasses a broad spectrum of interactions, including verbal and non-verbal communication, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. Its importance has surged in an increasingly interconnected world where cross- cultural encounters are commonplace, whether in global business, diplomacy, education, or social settings. The primary challenges in intercultural communication include: - Misinterpretation of messages due to cultural differences - Ethnocentrism, or viewing one's own culture as superior - Stereotyping, which can distort perceptions - Communication barriers,

such as language differences and non-verbal cues. Understanding these challenges necessitates a framework that recognizes the influence of culture on communication, which is where Ting-Toomey's contributions become invaluable. --- Foundations of Ting-Toomey's Theories

Stella Ting-Toomey's work emphasizes the importance of identity management, face negotiation, and cultural variability in communication. Her theories aim to clarify how cultural values shape interpersonal interactions and how individuals navigate differences to foster mutual understanding.

**Key Concepts in Ting-Toomey's Framework**

- 1. Face and Facework**
  - **Face:** The social value a person claims for themselves during interactions.
  - **Facework:** Strategies used to maintain, repair, or save face in communication. Ting-Toomey builds upon Erving Goffman's concept of face, emphasizing that face concerns are central to intercultural interactions. For example, in collectivist cultures, maintaining group harmony and avoiding embarrassment (saving face) is paramount, while in individualist cultures, self-expression and asserting personal identity are often prioritized.
- 2. Face-Negotiation Theory** This theory posits that conflicts and misunderstandings in intercultural communication often stem from differing face needs and conflict management styles rooted in cultural values.
- 3. Cultural Variations in Face Needs:**
  - Western societies tend to value independent self-construals, emphasizing individual rights and autonomy.
  - Eastern societies often emphasize interdependent self-construals, focusing on group harmony and social roles.
- 4. Conflict Styles:**
  - Western cultures may prefer direct confrontation or problem-solving.
  - Eastern cultures may favor indirect, accommodating, or avoiding strategies to preserve harmony. Ting-Toomey suggests that understanding these differences can help prevent misunderstandings and promote effective intercultural conflict resolution.
- 5. Cultural Variability and Individual Differences** While culture significantly influences communication styles, Ting-Toomey acknowledges individual differences within cultures. Her work advocates for cultural sensitivity and personal adaptability, encouraging communicators to recognize their own cultural biases and to be open to alternative perspectives. ---

Core Dimensions of Intercultural Communication According to Ting-Toomey Ting-Toomey's research identifies several critical dimensions that influence intercultural communication:

1. Individualism vs. Collectivism - Individualism: Emphasizing personal autonomy, self-expression, and individual achievement. - Collectivism: Prioritizing group harmony, loyalty, and social cohesion.
2. Power Distance - The degree to which unequal distribution of power is accepted within a society. - High power distance cultures (e.g., many Asian societies) may accept hierarchical differences openly. - Low power distance cultures (e.g., Scandinavian countries) favor egalitarian interactions.
3. Uncertainty Avoidance - The extent to which societies tolerate ambiguity. - High uncertainty avoidance cultures prefer clear rules and structures. - Low uncertainty avoidance cultures are more comfortable with ambiguity and change.
4. Contextual Communication - High-context cultures rely heavily on non-verbal cues, shared history, and implicit understanding. - Low-context cultures depend on explicit verbal communication and direct messaging.
5. Face and Self-Construal - The way individuals perceive themselves in relation to others influences their communication style. - Independent self-construal emphasizes personal identity. - Interdependent self-construal emphasizes relational identity and social roles.

--- Applications of Ting-Toomey's Intercultural Communication Model Her theories have practical applications in multiple domains:

1. Cross-Cultural Conflict Resolution - Recognizing cultural differences in face needs and conflict styles enables mediators and negotiators to develop culturally sensitive strategies. - Example: Using indirect communication in high-context cultures to avoid direct confrontation.
2. International Business and Diplomacy - Understanding cultural dimensions helps in Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey 7 designing effective communication strategies, negotiations, and partnership development. - Training programs often incorporate Ting-Toomey's models to enhance intercultural competence among managers and diplomats.
3. Education and Multicultural Settings - Educators can utilize her insights to foster inclusive environments, address misunderstandings, and promote intercultural awareness among students.
- 4.

Interpersonal Relationships - Awareness of face needs and cultural communication styles improves personal relationships across cultures, reducing conflicts and enhancing mutual respect. --- Developing Intercultural Competence Based on Ting-Toomey's Framework Intercultural competence involves a set of skills, attitudes, and behaviors that enable effective and appropriate interaction across cultures. Ting-Toomey's work emphasizes several key components: 1. Cultural Self-Awareness - Recognize your own cultural biases and communication styles. - Reflect on how your cultural background influences your perceptions and interactions. 2. Knowledge of Other Cultures - Learn about cultural norms, values, and communication preferences. - Avoid stereotypes by understanding individual differences within cultures. 3. Empathy and Perspective-Taking - Strive to see situations from others' cultural viewpoints. - Practice active listening and non-judgmental attitudes. 4. Flexibility and Adaptability - Adjust communication styles to suit different cultural contexts. - Be open to feedback and willing to modify behaviors. 5. Conflict Management Skills - Apply culturally appropriate conflict resolution strategies. - Recognize when indirect or direct approaches are suitable. --- Challenges and Critiques of Ting-Toomey's Theories While Ting-Toomey's contributions are influential, some critiques and challenges include: - Oversimplification of cultural categories: Cultures are complex and fluid; rigid classifications may overlook individual variability. - Ethnocentric tendencies: Some interpretations might inadvertently favor Western norms as universal standards. - Dynamic nature of culture: Cultures evolve over time, and static models may not capture current realities. - Context-specific applications: The effectiveness of certain strategies varies depending on specific intercultural contexts. Despite these critiques, her work remains foundational for understanding intercultural communication processes. --- Conclusion: The Significance of Ting-Toomey's Work Stella Ting-Toomey's comprehensive approach to intercultural communication provides invaluable insights into how cultural values shape communication behaviors, conflict styles, and identity management. Her emphasis on face, self-construals, and cultural dimensions equips individuals and

organizations with practical tools to navigate the Understanding Intercultural Communication Ting Toomey 8 complexities of intercultural interactions successfully. In a world characterized by globalization, multiculturalism, and digital connectivity, understanding and applying Ting- Toomey's theories is more critical than ever. Developing intercultural competence not only fosters mutual respect and understanding but also enhances cooperation, reduces conflicts, and promotes harmonious relationships across diverse cultural landscapes. By integrating her frameworks into education, professional development, and everyday interactions, we can build more inclusive, effective, and empathetic communicative practices that honor cultural differences and create shared understanding. --- In summary, understanding intercultural communication through the lens of Ting Toomey involves recognizing the profound influence of cultural values on face concerns, conflict management, and communication styles. Her work underscores the importance of self- awareness, cultural knowledge, empathy, and adaptability in achieving intercultural competence, which is essential for thriving in our interconnected world. intercultural communication, Ting Toomey, cross-cultural competence, intercultural sensitivity, intercultural competence, intercultural dialogue, intercultural awareness, communication styles, cultural identity, intercultural conflict

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understanding intercultural communication offers a comprehensive look at the foundational concepts of intercultural communication through its dynamic theme of flexible intercultural communication authors stella ting toomey and leeva chung effectively bridge the gap between intercultural communication theory and practice this book is distinctive because of its well balanced emphasis on both cross national intercultural communication issues and u s domestic diversity issues written in a conversational style the text presents up to date identity based frameworks and fresh approaches by integrating current empirical research with lively intercultural examples this book illustrates the practical nature of the intercultural communication field ting toomey and chung encourage students to think critically by asking thought provoking questions throughout the text and posing intercultural ethical dilemmas for students to ponder the text offers strong coverage of such topics as the process of ethnic and cultural identity change culture shock and intercultural adjustment intercultural verbal communication styles conflict facework interactions romantic relationships and raising bicultural children global identity challenges and decision making choices in intercultural ethics

this book introduces students to the foundations of intercultural communication a growing sub discipline within communication ting toomey and chung are both well known and active in the scholarly community and their book features a theme of flexible intercultural communication positioning itself as an antidote to texts that are prescriptive and rules y or overly theoretical praised for its attention to pedagogy and its holistic approach the book also avoids some of the pitfalls of the market leader samovar written from a fairly masculinist and us frame

from high level business negotiations to casual conversations among friends every interpersonal interaction is shaped by

cultural norms and expectations seldom is this more clearly brought to light than in encounters between people from different cultural backgrounds when dissimilar communication practices may lead to frustration and misunderstanding this thought provoking text presents a new framework for understanding the impact of culture on communication and for helping students build intercultural communication competence with illustrative examples from around the globe the book shows that verbal and nonverbal communication involves much more than transmitting a particular message it also reflects each participant's self image group identifications and values and privacy and relational needs readers learn to move effectively and appropriately through a wide range of transcultural situations by combining culture specific knowledge with mindful listening and communication skills throughout helpful tables and charts and easy to follow guidelines for putting concepts into practice enhance the book's utility for students

how can north americans improve their communication with the chinese a useful and efficient approach to understand prevalent cultural assumptions underlying everyday chinese communicative activities communicating effectively with the chinese identifies and conceptualizes some of the distinctive communication practices in chinese culture utilizing the self other perspective as a conceptual foundation authors ge gao and ting toomey portray and interpret the dynamics of chinese communication they examine how self conception role and hierarchy relational dynamics and face affect ways of conducting everyday talk in chinese culture they explain why miscommunication between chinese and north americans take place and suggest ways to improve chines north american communication by incorporating instances of everyday talk gao and ting toomey offer a realistic and clear illustration of the specific characteristics and functions of chinese communication as well as problematic areas of chinese north american encounters adding to the sparse literature on communicating with others of different cultural

backgrounds communicating effectively with the chinese is an insightful resource that will be widely used by professionals and academics in communication intercultural communication interpersonal communication asian studies and race and ethnic studies

recipient of the 1988 outstanding book award from the international and intercultural division of the speech communication association the integration is impressive and the book is a must for those interested in this and related topics i think this book is likely to become the bible of graduate students preparing for qualifying examinations for their doctorate in interpersonal communication particularly if cultural variables are included in such preparation professionals in this area will of course want to have it it is recommended to all readers of this journal harry triandis international journal of intercultural relations this book provides a welcome addition to the literature on human interaction the coverage of most areas is impressive the authors have amassed a considerable volume of material and have managed to compress a very detailed discussion into a comparatively small space the material is logically organized and succinctly presented throughout a valuable reference source a thoroughly researched and tightly written book which contributes significantly to the corpus scholarship in both interpersonal and intercultural communication it is highly recommended as a reference source for anyone interested in these increasingly important areas of research canadian journal of communication the authors have integrated an impressive array of literature this book is timely and will help give direction to culture and communication research over the next decade clearly structured and the material is well organized the writing is easy to read and the material generally well integrated contemporary sociology offers a very useful grounding and integration of work in this area so far journal of cross cultural psychology

filling the void in interpersonal and intercultural communication communication in personal relationships across cultures examines the communication practices of non western cultures the international cast of contributors assembled here leaves behind the biases typical of most research and theorizing done in this area of communication and enables the reader to develop a thorough understanding of how people communicate in non western societies chapters focus on communication practices in china japan korea mexico brazil iran africa and totalitarian societies through both emic and etic approaches this groundbreaking volume explores how members of a culture understand their own communication and compares the similarities and differences of specific aspects of communication across cultures covering all major theories in this expanding field and suggesting areas for future research this engaging collection will interest both students and professionals in communication psychology and sociology

published in cooperation with the speech communication association division on international and intercultural communication a diverse multicultural team of experts assembled for this compelling volume voice the importance of understanding language communication and culture they discuss the critical role of language usage through communication to assert and negotiate different facets of identity and relate the different levels and functions of language usage to the collective life of a culture each author discusses the interlinkage between language and communication based on his or her points of research interest and orientation topics addressed include the importance of studying the relationships between language and society the relationship between language and identities personal identity social role identity and cultural ethnolinguistic identity and the multiple functions and meanings of language and communication in relationship to culture taken together the three approaches in this volume reflect the current trends and directions of multidisciplinary nature of studying language communication and culture

language communication and culture reflects the current ideas and approaches of scholars working in the disciplines of psychology linguistics sociolinguistics intergroup relations and communication it will appeal to scholars researchers and students who are intrigued and enticed by the fascinating multifaceted aspects of language the book makes a unique contribution to the literature in that it includes a balance of theoretical discussion of issues such as language development use and function as well as a variety of analytical approaches and intergroup data based studies language communication and culture is a book which extends our knowledge about the structures functions and implications of language use across cultures ting toomey and korzenny have provided a worthwhile sourcebook for those of us researching culture and a particularly useful book for graduate level or advanced undergraduate coursework in language and or culture international journal of intercultural relations this is an important volume and will prove invaluable to gamers interested in the communication and the cultural aspects of simulation simulation gaming this collection is a well organized presentation of current research on the relationships among intercultural communication processes from differing perspectives the modern language journal this book will interest academic specialists in language and communication and their graduate students academic library book review on the whole the papers are coherent and well integrated into the research literature canadian journal of communication the contributors arguments are diverse but interlinked and provide a critical perspective on the theme of language and communication in cross cultural contexts adds to several important studies about the language culture nexus and favors the current climate of cultural pluralism and multilingualism to promote liberal ethnic identity journal of cross cultural psychology

in this volume ting toomey and oetzel accomplish two objectives to explain the culture based situational conflict model including the relationship among conflict ethnicity and culture and second integrate theory and practice in the discussion of interpersonal

conflict in culture ethnic and gender contexts while the book is theoretically directed it is also a down to earth practical book that contains ample examples conflict dialogues and critical incidents managing intercultural conflict effectively helps to illustrate the complexity of intercultural conflict interactions and readers will gain a broad yet integrative perspective in assessing intercultural conflict situations the book is a multidisciplinary text that draws from the research work of a variety of disciplines such as cross cultural psychology social psychology sociology marital and family studies international management and communication

from high level business negotiations to casual conversations among friends every interpersonal interaction is shaped by cultural norms and expectations seldom is this more clearly brought to light than in encounters between people from different cultural backgrounds when dissimilar communication practices may lead to frustration and misunderstanding this thought provoking text presents a new framework for understanding the impact of culture on communication and for helping students build intercultural communication competence with illustrative examples from around the globe the book shows that verbal and nonverbal communication involves much more than transmitting a particular message it also reflects each participant's self image group identifications and values and privacy and relational needs readers learn to move effectively and appropriately through a wide range of transcultural situations by combining culture specific knowledge with mindful listening and communication skills throughout helpful tables and charts and easy to follow guidelines for putting concepts into practice enhance the book's utility for students

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this handbook takes a multi disciplinary approach to offer a current state of art survey of intercultural communication ic studies the chapters aim for conceptual comprehension theoretical clarity and empirical understanding with good practical implications attention is mostly on face to face communication and networked communication facilitated by digital technologies much less on technically reproduced mass communication contributions cover both cross cultural communication implicit or explicit comparative works on communication practices across cultures and intercultural communication works on communication involving parties of diverse cultural backgrounds topics include generally histories of ic research theoretical perspectives non western theories and cultural communication specifically communication styles emotions interpersonal relationships ethnocentrism stereotypes cultural learning cross cultural adaptation and cross border messages and particular context of conflicts social change aging business health and new media although the book is prepared for graduate students and academicians intercultural communication practitioners will also find something useful here

this interdisciplinary volume includes general theory case studies and examples as well as ideas for procuring peace through communication for the larger community the book concludes with an agenda setting summary that stimulates inquiry in

communication studies and international relations readers will obtain an overall perspective of factors that affect diplomacy and negotiation across cultures power trust stereotyping hostility escalation mediation and negotiation philosophy and style and media and policy implications

this comprehensive user friendly introduction takes a current approach to cultural differences and guides students through the key concepts of communication and culture

the newest ideas and findings in cross cultural interpersonal communication are provided in this challenging volume the internationally recognized contributors examine such salient topics as interpersonal relationship development between people from different cultures family nicknaming practices and language and intercultural attraction

the theme of volume 9 of the series is the influence of culture on organizational processes it includes a general discussion of cultural approaches to studying organizations cultural codes in organizational settings and stereotypes and schemata individual chapters examine the role of culture in conflict negotiation and decision making processes in organizational settings the volume is generally theoretical in its approach and includes several new conceptual schemes and suggested directions for future research

in theorizing about intercultural communication editor william b gudykunst brings together key theories that have shaped and influenced human intercultural communication this text provides an excellent overview of the major theories currently in use and examines how these theories will also support the foundation for future research in this area contributors to this text include

individuals who actually developed the theories covered in the book each contributor highlights the evolution development and application of the theory to provide a thorough and contemporary view of the field

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