

Guys, Interrupted



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My buddies and I like to interrupt each other frequently in the course of a lively discussion. Properly executed, an interruption indicates that my friend has grasped the point I was making and is ready to a) acknowledge it and move on, b) acknowledge it and put his own spin on it or c) dispute it and suggest that I am an idiot. The way we see it, finishing every sentence, paragraph or monologue would be inefficient and boring so we don't subject one other to that out of mutual respect.

My brothers and I would sometimes prefer to leapfrog each another's half-baked ideas into outer space and worry about re-entry later. We can engage in this sort of irreverence because we know we are safe with each other no matter what we say; like little boys wrestling.

When we commune with our sweethearts we try to strike a different tone because we are genuinely and deeply fascinated; not only with the substance of what you are saying, but also with the lyrical way you are saying it! We realize that this other type of conversation is as much about connection as communication, as much about listening and being heard as about the subject at hand. We realize that sometimes we are exploring new territory together rather than going anywhere in particular. We get that. We also realize that we will be sleeping on the couch if we don't get that. We are trying. Only please don't ask us to give a chronological account of our day because we can't do that. We just don't organize information that way. Trust me. Call me.

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