

Misconceptions about To-be ENGINEERS

TAHMEED CHAUDHURY

Imagine how it would feel if you're an engineering student and you're working hard for that degree and then all of a sudden your mother's brother's wife's sister's husband comes up to you and goes "Oh you're studying engineering? You must know how to fix that flickering bulb." Yeah, it's a sucker punch.

Engineering students are looked upon as mysterious beings and there are a multitude of annoying stereotypes about this area of studies. As an engineering student myself, I get both irritated and flabbergasted at times with what people have to say. We are human beings just like the rest of you and most of what you think about us are not true.

Let me take you through some of the misconceptions people have about engineering students:

THOU SHALL KNOW HOW TO FIX THE BROKEN SWITCH

No, we are not electricians. We don't go through 4/5 years of intense study pressure to end up being your wireman, even though we perhaps know how to. Engineers are builders who use their expertise in technology to improve human lives, not earn 200 bucks per house call. Also, computer science graduates are not specialised Windows 10 installers and civil engineers are not hat wearing brick layers.

ENGINEERING: IT'S A GUY THING

Wrong. There are a lot of girls who study engineering, and a lot of them are smarter than the rest of us. Thanks to the internet and some other sources, people believe women don't study engineering, which is entirely false. If you look up on the internet, you will find historic female figures that have made groundbreaking contributions in the field of science and engineering.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS HAVE NO LIFE

Well, we do. We eat, we sleep and we love to go out and party just like you. Look at me - I write. Not all of us are nerds and geeks either; some of us prefer things that the so-called normal people do instead of playing Dungeons and Dragons or going on a Star Wars marathon. Although we do have a heavier work load, that does not restrict us to sticking to our study tables all day long.

ALL ENGINEERING STUDENTS ARE SMART

This is another conventional myth about engineering pupils. Here in Bangladesh, not all engineering students choose engineering major on their own, some are forced and some choose it based on fallacious judgment. Furthermore, people believe we are all excellent in math. Well, not all of us. Some engineering students don't have a clue about what they learn (thank you, Mr Laplace and Fourier) and hence there is always a record of annual engineering drop outs. Not all engineering students are witty and not all of them are Einsteins either.

Since we've got that cleared out, let's dispel all the fictitious misconceptions about engineering students as well. They are just like any other human being. Don't believe me, come hang out with us you'll see.



Bad Gift Giving Etiquette

SE

Bad gifts themselves are often excusable but bad etiquette, not so much. Not everyone's a maestro when it comes to the art of gift giving but the gesture surely counts.

Imagine spending days searching for the best gift for somebody only to have your heartbroken by the sheer grimace on their faces when they see it. You don't want to do that to someone, do you? Sure, you may as well wear your grandmother's old nightgown instead of trying on the sweater your aunt knit you in the middle of summer, but you have to admit, she did put some effort behind it and a smile and a thank you in return wouldn't hurt.

According to a study in the Journal of Consumer Research, a lot of times, gifts turn out to be bad because the giver often tends to focus more on the sentiment behind the gift than its practical use. The giver might have actually gone out of his/her way to find the right gift for you and just fallen short of the mark.

However, there are, of course, those instances where the gift clearly has no sentiment attached and the reason it ever made it to you is because it's your birthday or some other occasion where one is bound to give you something.

One of the worst examples of these instances can be observed in joint birthday parties. As if you hadn't cursed your luck enough already to have been born on the same day as your cousin and took an involuntary oath to never have a birthday party just for yourself, now you have to

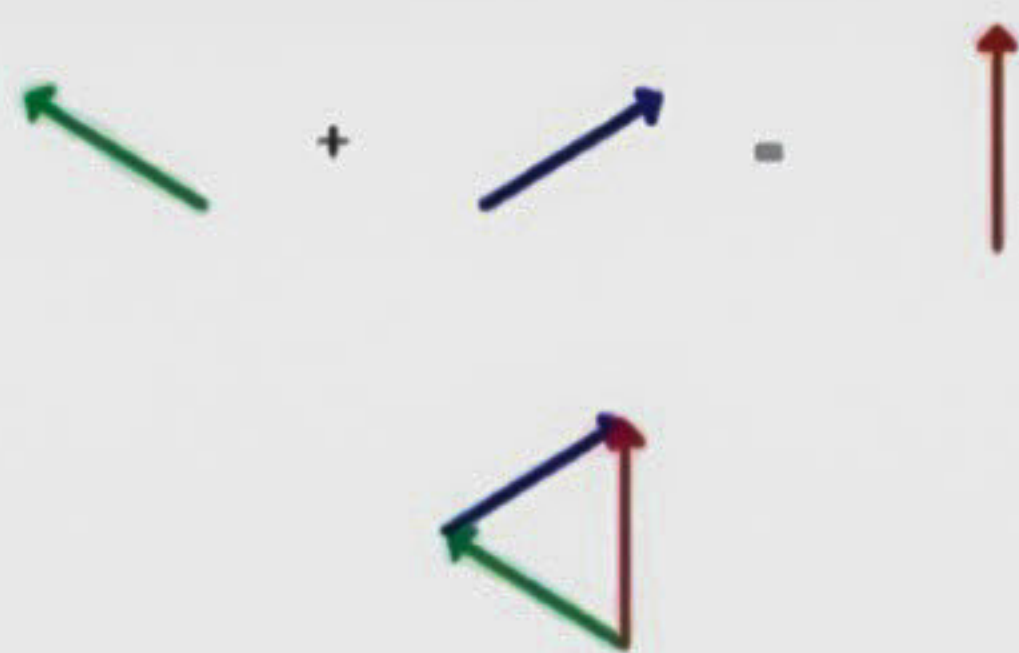
share your gifts too! They could be a decade older than you, have completely different tastes and you may as well hate them too much to even think of sharing, but there are always going to be people who will walk into the party with one fancily wrapped gift box. Most of the times, there's cutlery inside.

I've had the misfortune of knowing people who believed in my luck more than I did and handed me a bunch of lottery bonds on my birthday. Yes, I know my luck rarely ever favours me (that's also why these people are still in my life) but pointing it out like that? That's cruel! The point is, while it's okay to be experimental with your gifts sometimes and choose something unique, there's no point giving something that does not convey any emotion and will also probably never come to any use to the recipient either. It only expresses your indifference and honestly, that's worse than no gift at all.

Finally, if it's your friend's birthday and it completely skipped your mind until the last minute, don't just take an unwanted gift you received previously, wrap it up and give it to them. Especially if the person who gave you that gift in the first place is around (Just. No). As I previously said, gifting someone a possession of yours is alright as long as it means something to the both of you and not as a last resort.

A major part of what makes gifts special is the thought that goes behind choosing it. Even if it's not exactly what the receiver wanted, a well thought out gift could bring a smile to anyone's face. Unless it's

ENGINEERING SCHOOL: DAY 1



ENGINEERING SCHOOL: DAY 2

