

Dealing with Freeloaders

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Whenever you hear “group project” don't you remember the agonising experience of working in that one group project that you didn't like being a part of? Sometimes it was because we didn't get our friends on the same team, sometimes it was because we got someone we didn't like being on the same team with, or sometimes it was just because we purely hate the concept of working on a group project. But the worst in my (and I'm sure in everybody else's) opinion, is to get stuck on a team with a freeloader or slacker or whatever you'd like to call them because they wouldn't care enough to protest being called that anyway.

After years and years of various excruciatingly painful experiences, I'm here to teach you the basics of working with a slacker.

Step 1: They don't show up

You call group meetings, expecting all the team members to show up. Everyone but that one person shows up. You wait for them to grace you with their royal presence but they never do. Not until you've already distributed all the duties anyway.

Step 2: They don't do anything productive

By now, they do show up. But when your teammates are brainstorming and you ask them for suggestions, they just

shrug and come up with ideas that can never be used. Sometimes they get so hyped up about contributing that makes you get your hopes up only to find out they have “other obligations” like attending dance rehearsals of their dad's colleague's second cousin's best friend's wedding or going through a bad break-up, which happens just before the due date of submission.

Step 3: They don't feel guilty

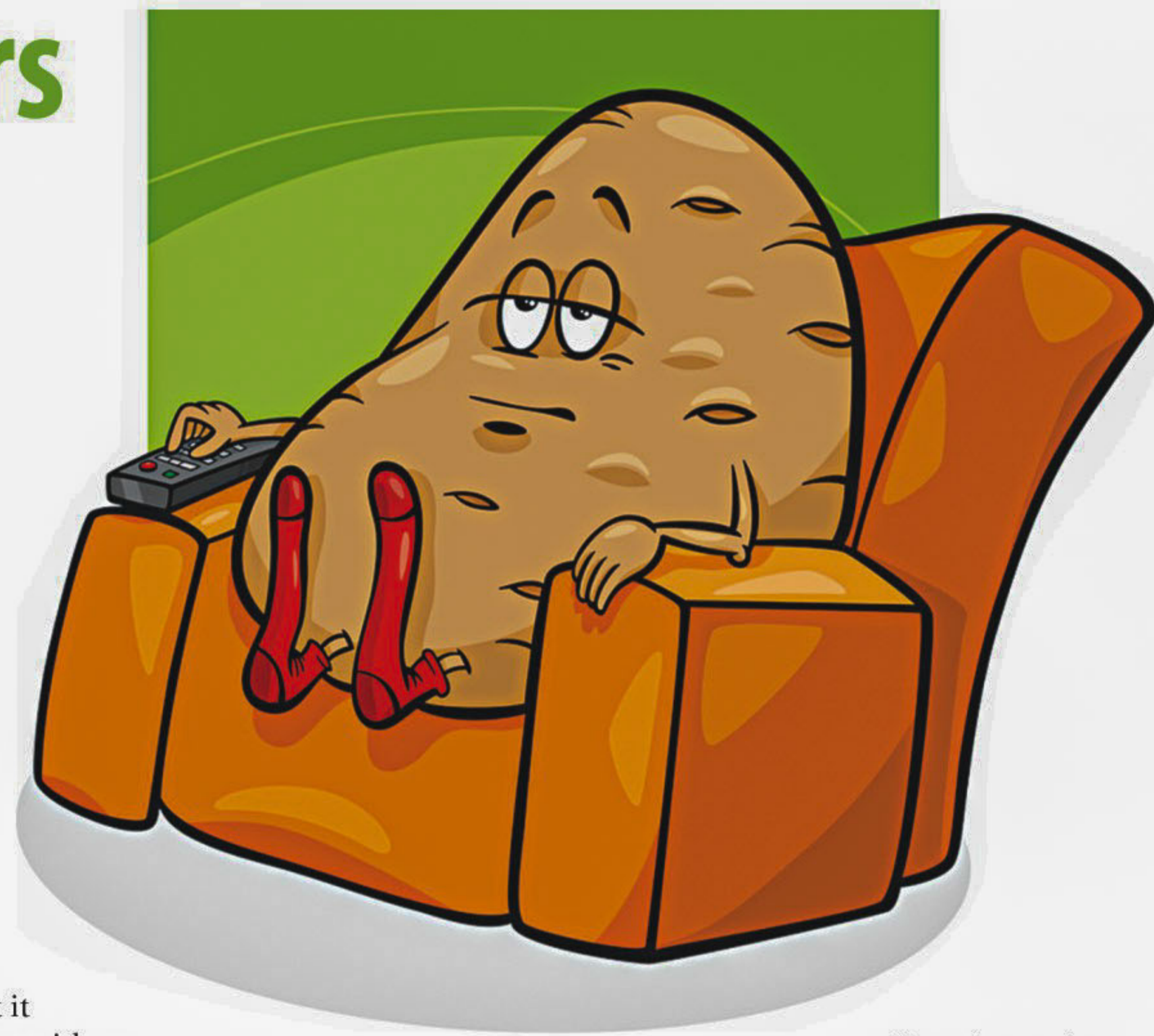
Whoever said “peer pressure stops people from free-riding in an assignment” has surely never met people like your certain group mate. No amount of insults or threats or death glares seems to do any work. They mess up the only thing they've been allocated to do, just like Alan from the Hangover series.

Step 4: You start doing their work

After getting all your hopes and dreams of getting an A crushed like a bug, you just accept your fate and start doing their work as well. They keep reassuring you that they'll contribute more to your next project and to let them off the hook just this once. You sign and write their part as well as your own and write their names on the cover, even though you don't want to.

Step 5: You give up

At this point, you don't even care what happens to your project. You just want to



get it over with, so that you don't have to stay up all night worrying about your grade and crying yourself to sleep. When this happens, know that you have successfully mastered the art of dealing with a freeloader in a project.

So now you know how to deal with this kind of people without harming anyone in the process (occasionally banging your head against a table to

relieve frustration doesn't count). And what is getting a B (when everybody else got an A) in a project when our existence is meaningless anyway?

Aateeya Saabeen, scarily resembles Koala Bear in looks and in sleeping patterns is a dedicated Beatlemaniac. She believes her Hogwarts letter got lost in the mail because they misspelled her name. Leave her a

TYPES OF RESTING FACES AND HOW TO APPROACH THEM

VERONICA GOMES

Being an ambivert who always had this innate drive to avoid awkward conversations, I always ended up in awkward conversations. Subsequently, I went on an observation spree and categorised the different facial types to know which people to approach. After tagging them with their rightful personalities (in most cases), I came up with the following list:

1. Resting jerk face: The most common yet the most misconceived face of all. Contrary to popular belief, people who are quite unfairly deemed to wear this often turn out to be the complete opposites if you approach them right. In fact, offer them a cookie as a reward for successfully dealing with its consequences on a daily basis. They deserve it.

2. I-give-up-on-life face: Besides this being the trademark face for students having to attend those insufferable 8 a.m. lectures, some people wear it all the time, including myself (as I have been reliably informed by some of

my friends). Safe to say, their faces don't lie. Ignite a spark in their meme-deprived souls. Go up to them and show them a meme or two.

3. Perpetual happy face: Chances are the serial killer vibes you get from



their creepy smiles aren't just vibes. General advice would be to make a run for it in the opposite direction. Let's face it, trusting a person this happy in this time and age is equivalent to trusting President Trump with the nuclear missile codes - a perfect example of “just because the cool kids are doing it, doesn't mean you should too.”

4. The confused face: Imagine your expression if you were to decipher the meaning of a Japanese movie without using subtitles. Now multiply the intensity of your cluelessness by 100. Feeling sorry for yourself yet? It goes without saying, reach out to these people. Indulge in deep conversations with them and maybe hand out your take on the meaning of life while you're at it.

5. The wanderer: As the name suggests, it resembles a zoned out expression because it most likely belongs to that of an adventurous and vibrant human being. In most cases the assumption is true, only difference being that these people wander off in their vivid imaginations from time to time. Befriend them if you want to join in on

their imaginary getaways.

6. Eerily satisfied face: There is an uncanny resemblance between this face and that of Jim Moriarty whenever he's seen boasting about his credentials as a criminal mastermind. This can mean one of two things- either they've finally completed plotting revenge on the people in their “list” or that they're simply satisfied with how well balanced their life is at the moment. I honestly don't know what's worse.

7. Resting nice face: In the rare occurrences that they do occur, these people radiate positive energy just by existing. Don't let your presuppositions due to deceptive past encounters fool you. Sometimes the book is in fact as good as the cover. Let your guard down, approach them and maybe the next thing you know, you've made a friend for life.

Veronica Gomes is a devout Coldplayer and Sherlockian who is convinced her dog has secret pet parties at her place when she's not around. Email her at gomesveronica1997@gmail.com