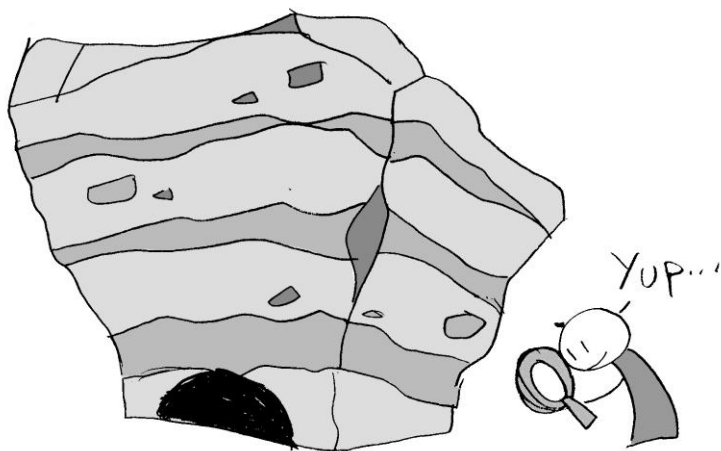

***Skill 4: Act on
Present Facts, Not
Past History***

Example.

Theodore is looking for his first job after graduating college. He plans to get work in architecture, since he's already spent years studying architecture, jumping through hoops to get the credentials, making contacts in the field, and learning all about flying buttresses and different kinds of concrete.

Teleporting alien: *"This brain has acquired some architecture skills. My new legal identity can claim a degree in architecture. My face is recognized by some employers and contacts in the architecture business. This gives my new body strong architecture-related options for employment, but I could consider other options as well."*



1. Original human: Lucille paid \$79 for her Costco membership, and she thinks she'd better save at least that much by shopping there regularly.

Teleporting alien:



Answer to 1.

You teleport in from the Pinwheel Galaxy, find yourself in Lucille's body, and discover that your wallet contains a membership card for Costco, good for the next eight Earth months. "Hm," you think, "This will enable my body to purchase large quantities of nourishment at reduced unit prices, at a cost in time and credit to transport myself to and from their depot."

2. Original human: Jonathan is about to move to Australia, and is contemplating finally making the jump to an e-reader so he won't have to ship all his physical books. But he just completed his collection of every book David Brin ever wrote.

Teleporting alien:



Answer to 2.

You jump in from the Large Magellanic Cloud, assess Jonathan's situation, and think, "My new body has legal claim to one instance apiece of every ink-inscribed dead tree templated by the author David Brin. My new brain enjoys the words written therein, and ascribes meaning to the completeness of this set of possessions. Yet I would need to pay many green rectangles to bring these dead trees to my future continent."

3. Original human: Myrtle has finally, after five total hours of tinkering and swearing, assembled her new bike. Since she got it, the bike lane she was planning to take to work has been closed, and now it's raining, but she's damn well going to ride it.

Teleporting alien:



Answer to 3.

Arriving from the Tadpole Galaxy, you realize, "Myrtle possessed a two-wheeled foot-propelled vehicle, which this body is capable of riding faster than it moves via locomotion, but it will be uncomfortable under present meteorological conditions and presents a greater risk of death with a painted avenue blocked."

4. Original human: Quentin promised Tim yesterday that he'd meet him for lunch today. Tim takes that sort of thing pretty seriously.

Teleporting alien:

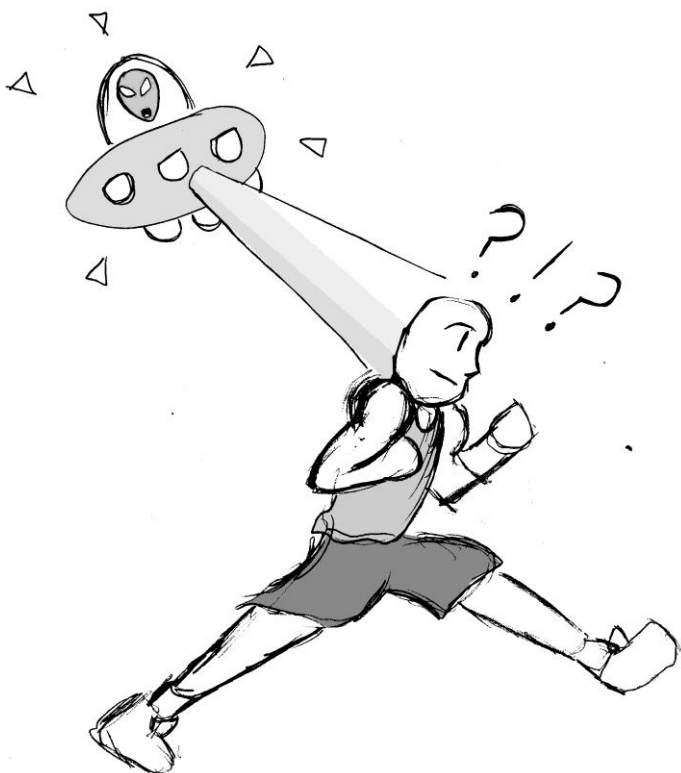


Answer to 4.

After you finish your takeover of Quentin's brain, you note that failing to meet Tim for a mid-day meal will sacrifice some portion of Tim's goodwill. Caveat: A human may legitimately care about their own promises more than an alien who has just taken over their body.

5. Original human: Caleb has run one mile every Saturday morning for the last two years, no exceptions. Ordinarily he wouldn't even have to think about the question, but on this particular morning his brain was taken over by a—

Teleporting alien:



Answer to 5.

After teleporting in from the Sunflower Galaxy, you ponder, "My new body has the valuable capacity to move at a rapid gait over 1,609.344 meters, and the well-worn psychological patterns enabling Caleb's brain to maintain this regimen will be disrupted if I do not do so every seven rotations of the Earth beginning roughly now."