



# Words, Pictures, and Common Sense

Devi Parikh  
Georgia Tech



what i think



what i say



2012 SUMMER  
**ARTS**  
FESTIVAL

Organized by:  
• Blacksburg College  
• Blacksburg Community Center  
• Blacksburg High School  
• Blacksburg Middle School  
• Blacksburg Public Library  
• Blacksburg Public Schools  
• Blacksburg Rotary Club  
• Blacksburg Senior Center  
• Blacksburg United Methodist Church  
• Blacksburg Women's Club  
• Blacksburg Youth Center  
• Blacksburg Zonta Club

Slide credit: Devi Parikh

“Color College Avenue”, Blacksburg, VA, May 2012



# People coloring a street in rural Virginia.





It was a great event! It brought families out, and the whole community together.





Q. What are they coloring the street with?

A. Chalk





An aerial photograph of a street in Blacksburg, VA, during the 'Color College Avenue' event in May 2012. The street is covered in vibrant, multi-colored chalk art, including drawings of a bear, a rainbow, and various patterns. People are seen walking along the street, and a sign for the '2012 SUMMER' event is visible on a building in the background.

AI: What a nice picture! What event was this?

User: *“Color College Avenue”*. It was a lot of fun!

AI: I am sure it was! Do they do this every year?

User: *I wish they would. I don't think they've organized it again since 2012.*

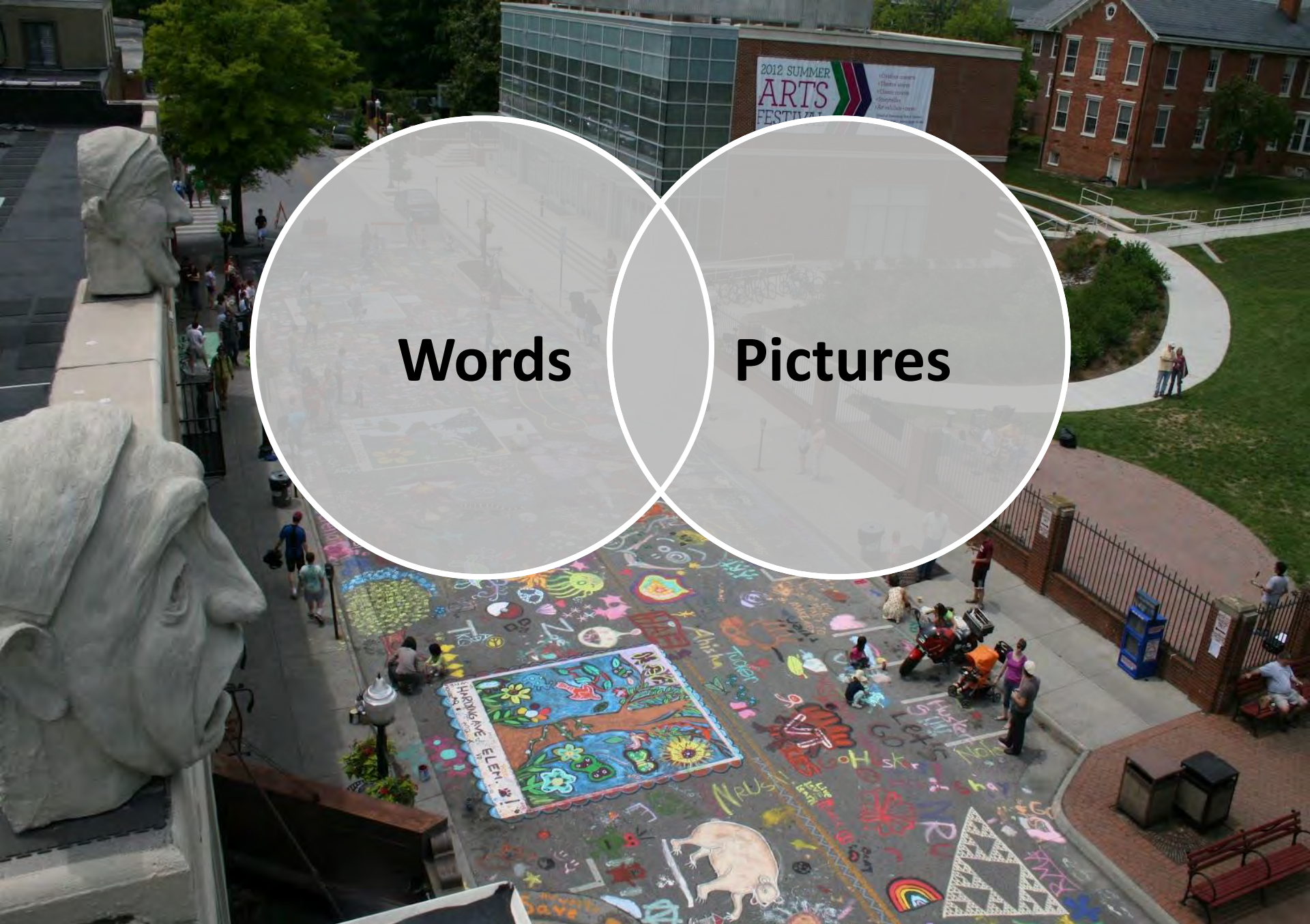
...





# Pictures

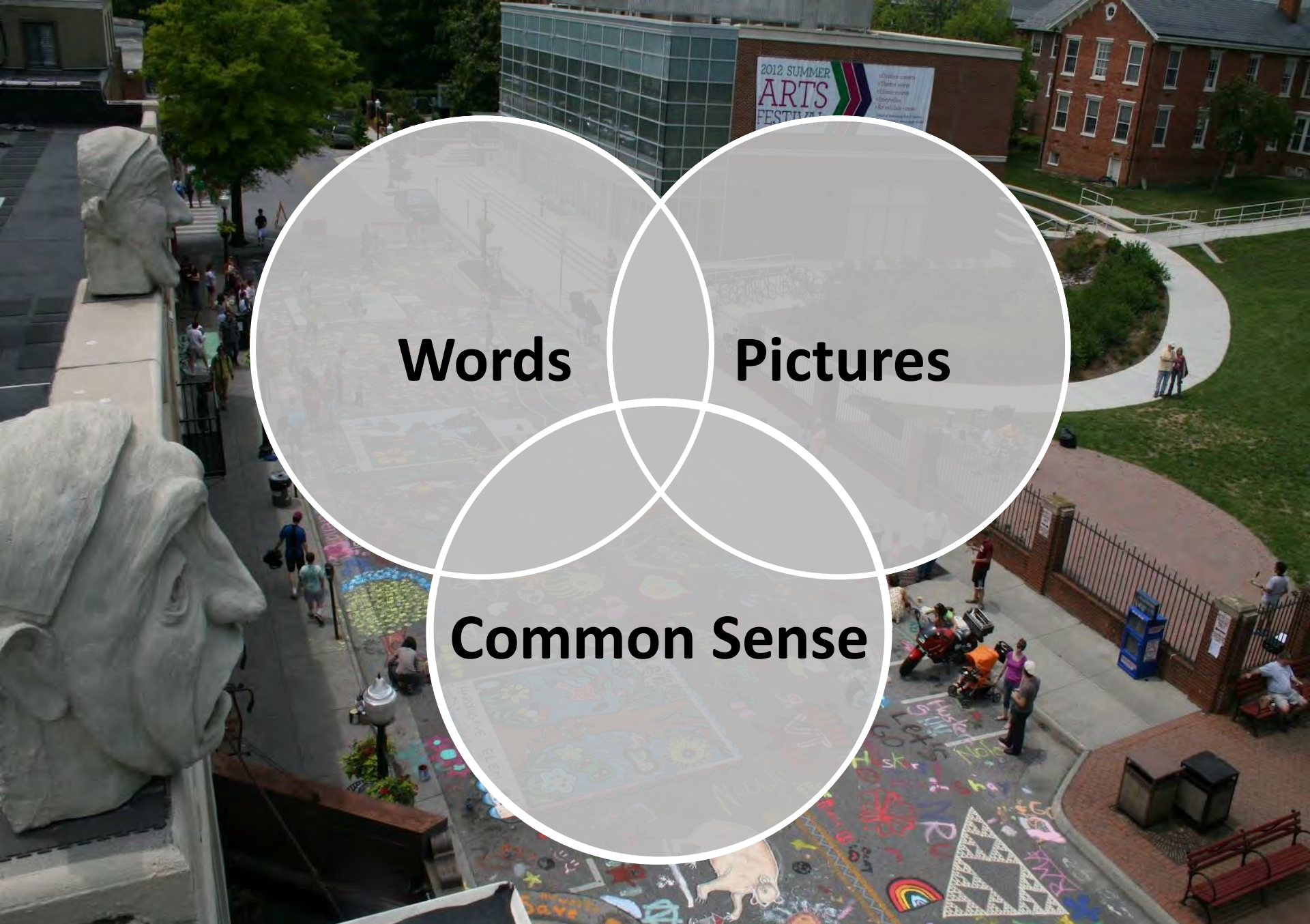




**Words**

**Pictures**





**Words**

**Pictures**

**Common Sense**



# Applications

Pictures are everywhere

Words are how we communicate



# Applications

Interact with, organize, and navigate visual data





# Applications

Leverage multi-modal information on the web





# Applications

Aid visually-impaired users





# Applications

Aid visually-impaired users

## FACEBOOK'S AI CAN CAPTION PHOTOS FOR THE BLIND ON ITS OWN



# Applications

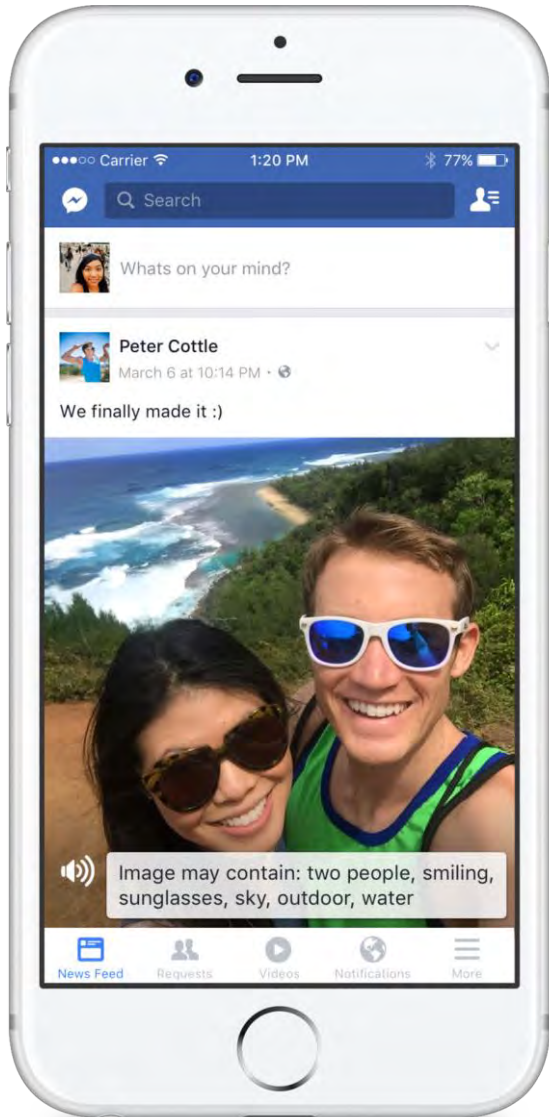


Peter just uploaded a picture from his vacation in Hawaii

Great, is he at the beach?

No, on a mountain

...





# Applications

Summarize visual data for analysts



Did anyone enter this room last week?

Yes, 127 instances logged on camera

Were any of them carrying a black bag?

...



# Applications

Natural language instructions to an agent



Is there smoke in any room around you?

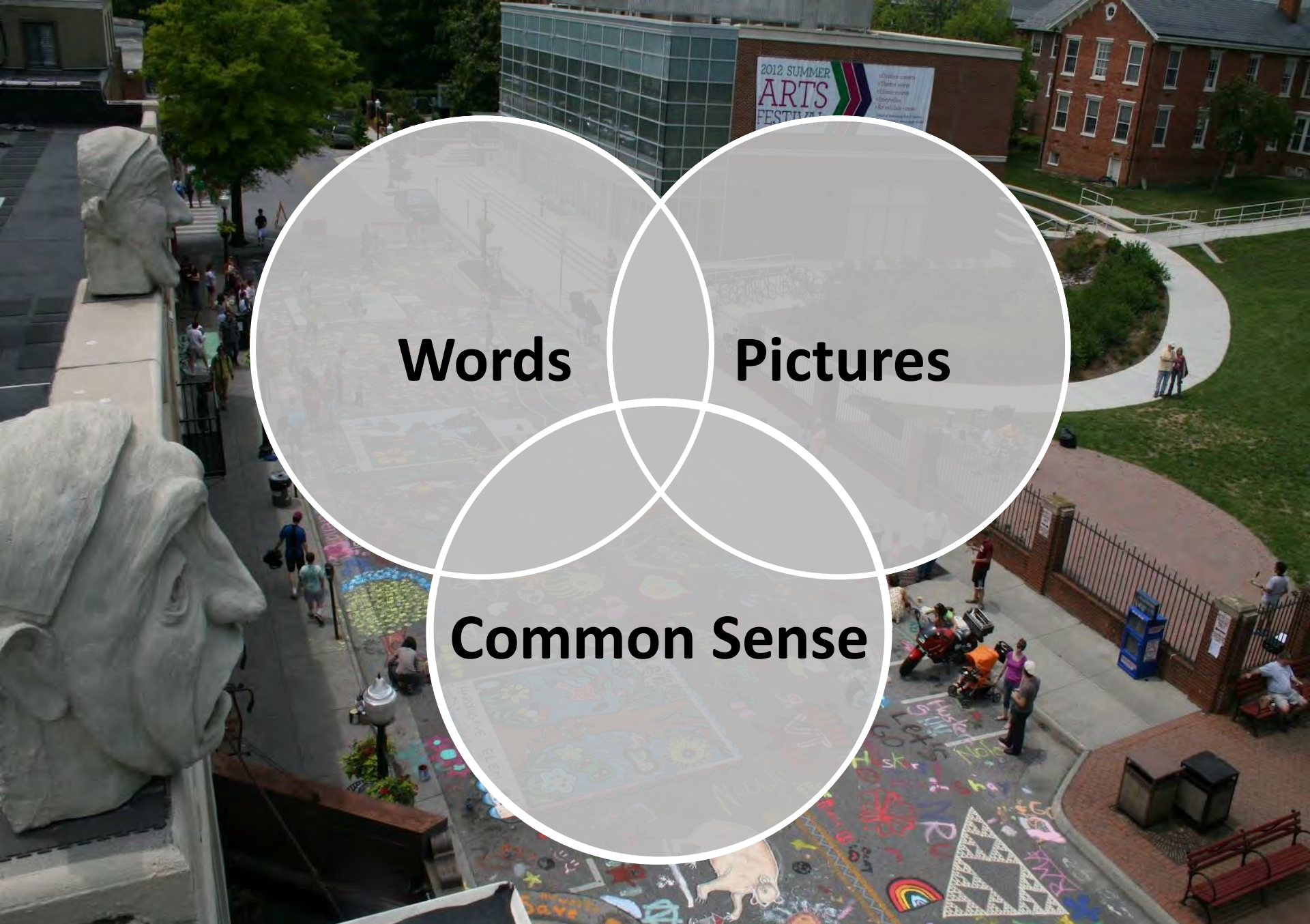
Yes, in one room

Go there and look for people

...





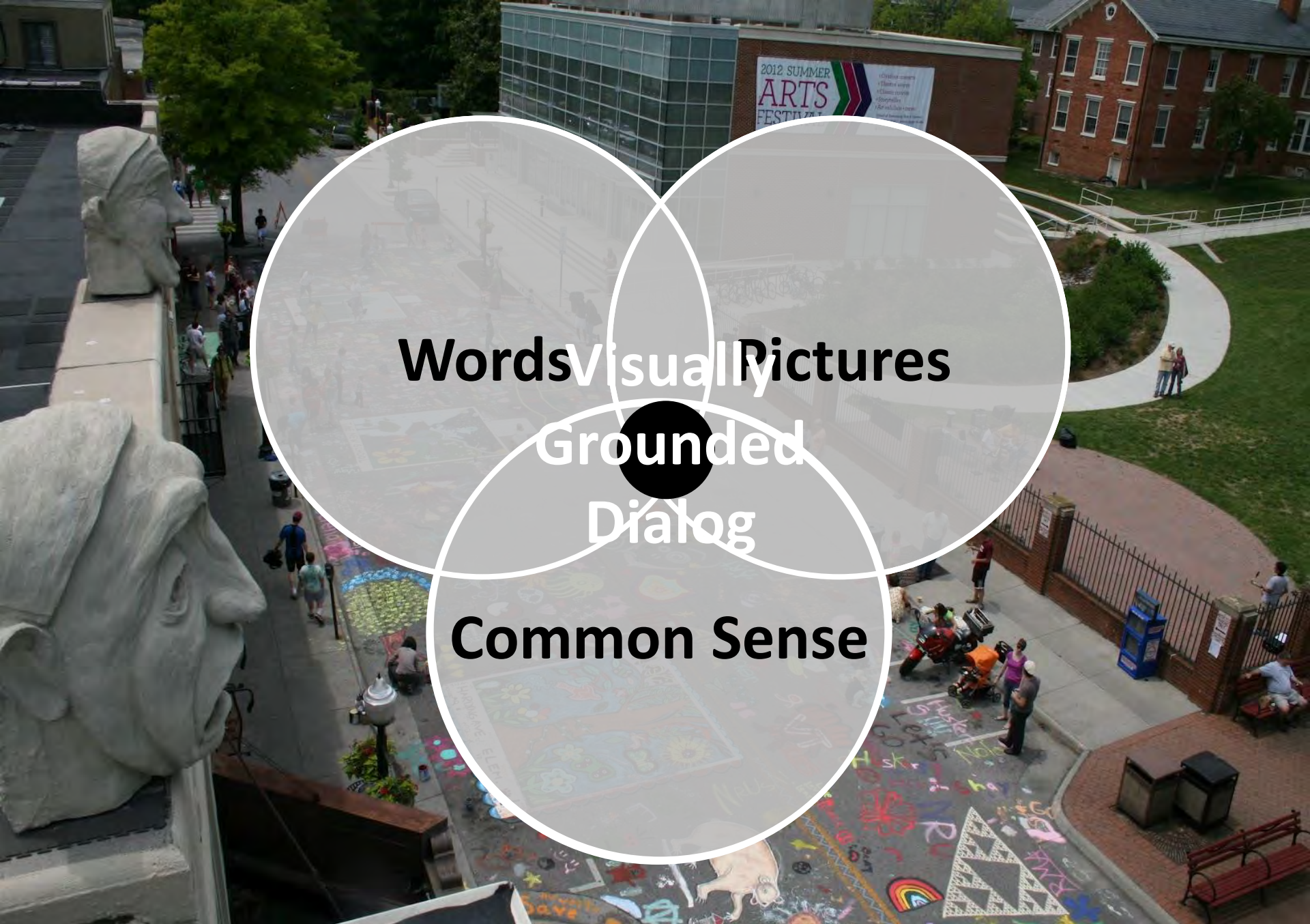


**Words**

**Pictures**

**Common Sense**





**Words**  
**Visually**  
**Pictures**  
**Grounded**  
**Dialog**  
**Common Sense**



# Visual Question Answering (VQA)



# Visual Question Answering (VQA)



What is the mustache  
made of?



# Visual Question Answering (VQA)



What is the mustache  
made of?

AI System

# Visual Question Answering (VQA)



What is the mustache made of?

AI System

bananas



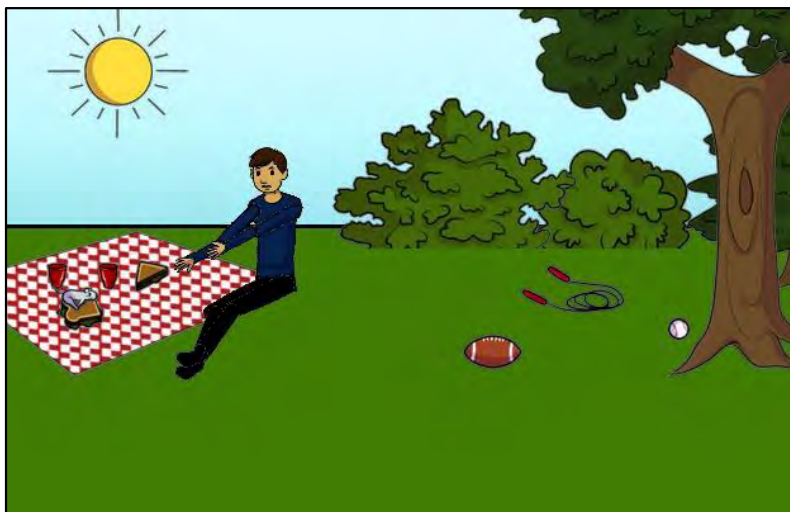
# Visual Question Answering (VQA)



What color are her eyes?  
What is the mustache made of?



How many slices of pizza are there?  
Is this a vegetarian pizza?



Is this person expecting company?  
What is just under the tree?



Does it appear to be rainy?  
Does this person have 20/20 vision?

>0.25 million images





254,721 images (MS COCO)



50,000 scenes



>0.25 million images

>0.76 million questions

# Questions

Stump a smart robot! Ask a question about this image that a human can answer, but a smart robot probably can't!

Stump a smart robot!  
Ask a question that a human can answer,  
but a smart robot probably can't!



- **Do not repeat questions.** Do not ask the same questions or the same questions with minor variations over and over again across images. Think of a **new question each time** specific to each image.
- Each question should be a **single question**. **Do not ask questions that have multiple parts** or multiple sub-questions in them.
- **Do not ask generic questions** that can be asked of many other images. Ask questions **specific to each image**.

Please ask a question about this image that a human can answer \*if\* looking at the image (and not otherwise), but would stump this smart robot:

Q1:



>0.25 million images

>0.76 million questions

~10 million answers

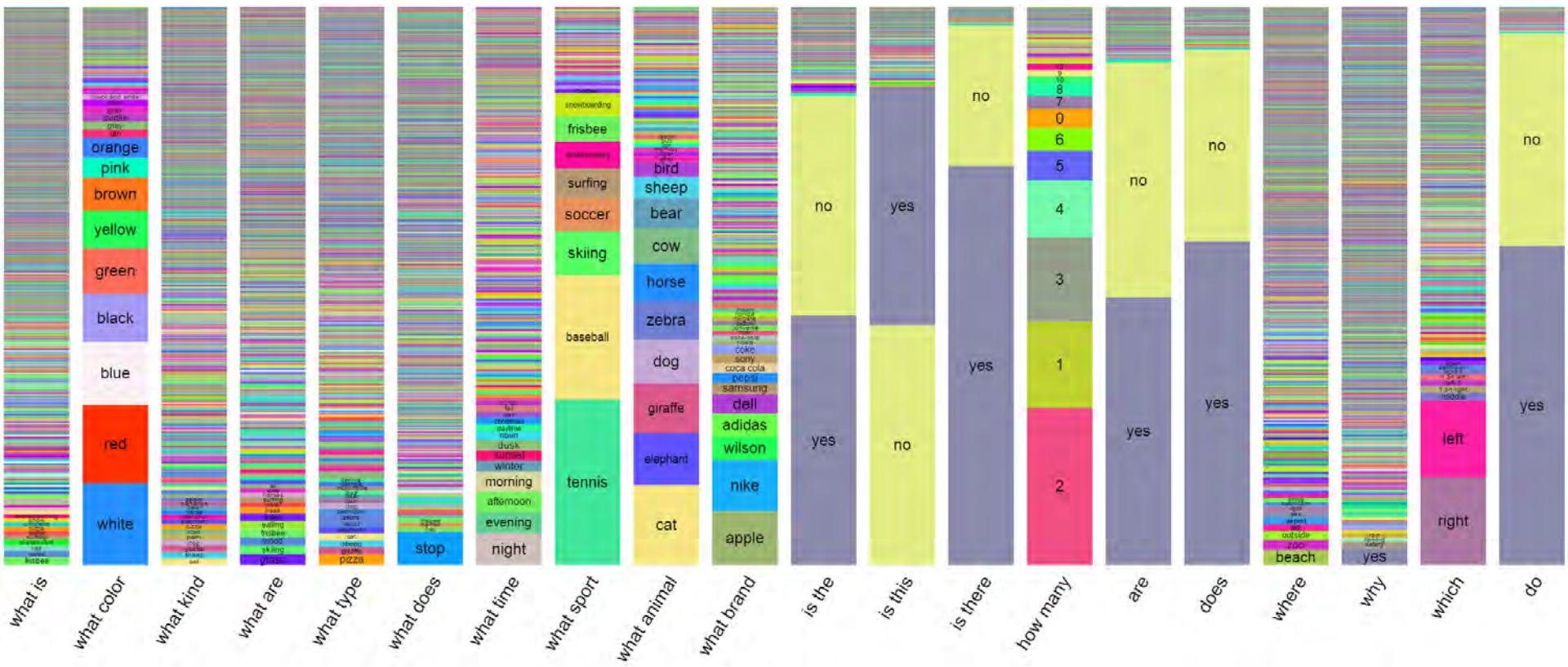
>20 person-job-years

# Taxing the Turkers

- *Beware also the lasting effects of doing too many --for hours after the fact you will not be able to look at any photo without automatically generating a mundane question for it.*
- *If I were in possession of state secrets they could be immediately tortured out of me with the threat of being shown images of: skateboards, trains, Indian food and [long string of expletives] giraffes.*
- *(Please...I will tell you everything...just no more giraffes...)*



# Answers



# Human Accuracy, Inter-Human Agreement

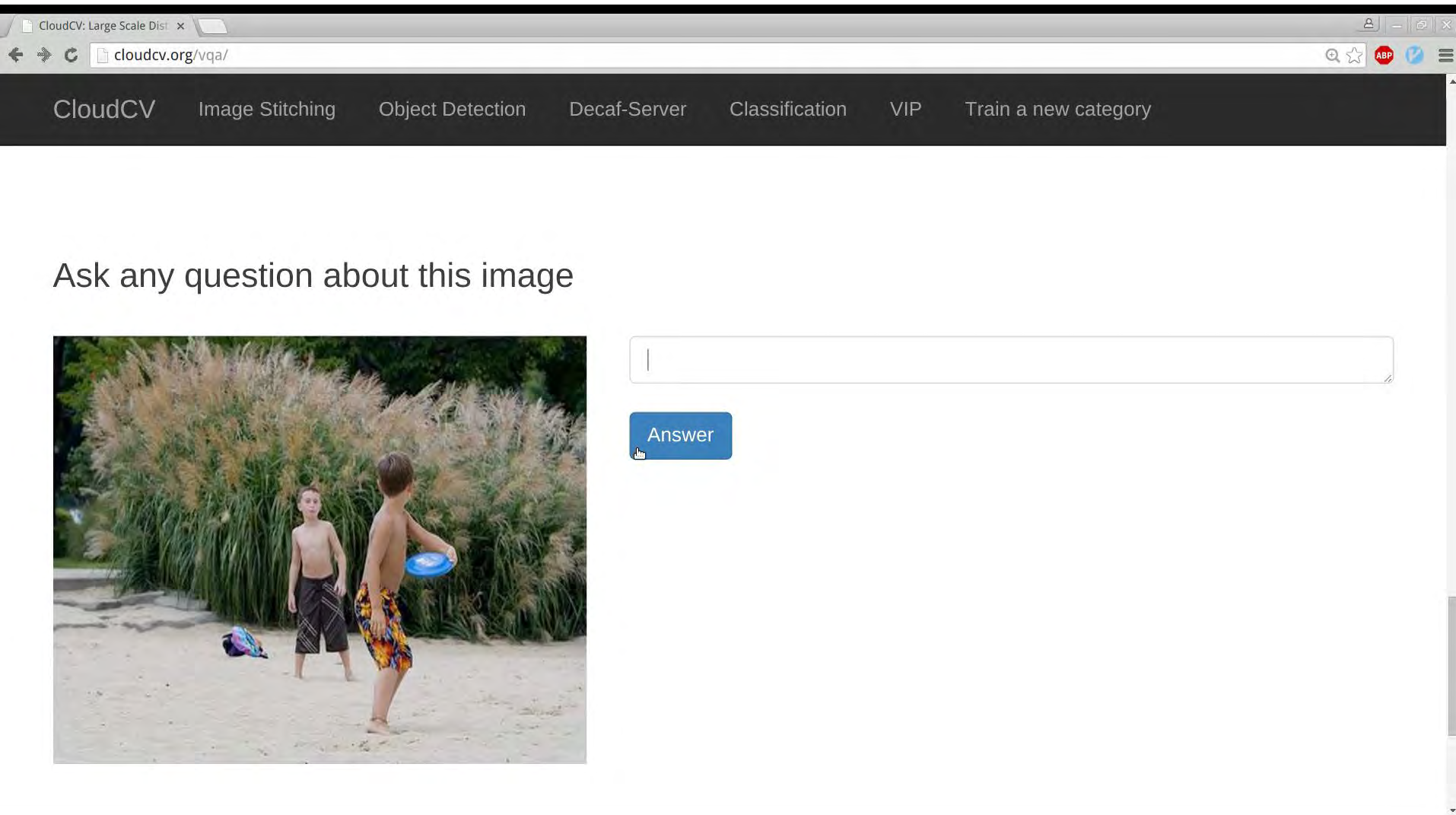
Human agreement: 83%

First model (Summer 2015): 54%

State-of-the-art machine accuracy: 68%



# Visual Question Answering (VQA)




The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [cloudcv.org/vqa/](http://cloudcv.org/vqa/). The navigation bar includes links for CloudCV, Image Stitching, Object Detection, Decaf-Server, Classification, VIP, and Train a new category. The main content area features the text "Ask any question about this image" above a photograph of two boys on a beach. To the right of the image is a text input field and a blue "Answer" button.

CloudCV: Large Scale Dist x

cloudcv.org/vqa/

CloudCV Image Stitching Object Detection Decaf-Server Classification VIP Train a new category

Ask any question about this image



Answer

[www.visualqa.org](http://www.visualqa.org)

# Papers using VQA

**Ask Me Anything: Free-form Visual Question Answering  
Based on Knowledge from External Sources**

---

**Simple Baseline for Visual Question Answering**

---

Academia, industry, start ups  
Dataset, Code

**ABC-CNN: An Attention Based Convolutional Neural Network for Visual  
Question Answering**

Kan Chen  
University of Southern California  
kanchen@usc.edu

Jiang Wang  
Baidu Research - IDL  
wangjiang03@baidu.com

Liang-Chieh Chen  
UCLA  
lcchen@cs.ucla.edu

Haoyuan Gao  
Baidu Research - IDL  
gaohaoyuan@baidu.com

Wei Xu  
Baidu Research - IDL  
wei.xu@baidu.com

Ram Nevatia  
University of Southern California  
nevatia@usc.edu

**Stacked Attention Networks for Image Question Answering**

Zichao Yang<sup>1</sup>, Xiaodong He<sup>2</sup>, Jianfeng Gao<sup>2</sup>, Li Deng<sup>2</sup>, Alex Smola<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carnegie Mellon University, <sup>2</sup>Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA 98052, USA  
zy@cs.cmu.edu, {xiaohe, jfgao, deng}@microsoft.com, alex@smola.org

# VQA Challenge @ CVPR16

## Competition



### VQA Real Image Challenge (Open-Ended)

Organized by vqateam - Current server time: March 22, 2016, 5 a.m. UTC

#### ▶ Current

Real Challenge test2015 (oe)

Oct. 21, 2015, midnight UTC

#### Next

Real test2015 (oe)

Oct. 21, 2015, midnight UTC

Learn the Details

Phases

Participate

Results

Forums ➔

Overview

Evaluation

Terms and Conditions

## Visual Question Answering (VQA)



What color are her eyes?  
What is the mustache made of?



How many slices of pizza are there?  
Is this a vegetarian pizza?



Is this person expecting company?  
What is just under the tree?



Does it appear to be rainy?  
Does this person have 20/20 vision?

Recent progress in computer vision and natural language processing has demonstrated that lower-level tasks are much closer to being solved. We believe that the time is ripe to pursue higher-level tasks, one of which is Visual Question Answering (VQA), where the goal is to be



# VQA Challenge @ CVPR16

	By Answer Type			Overall
	Yes/No	Number	Other	
UC Berkeley & Sony <sup>[14]</sup>	83.24	39.47	58	66.47
Naver Labs <sup>[10]</sup>	83.31	38.7	54.62	64.79
DLAIT <sup>[5]</sup>	83.25	40.07	52.09	63.68
snubi-naverlabs <sup>[25]</sup>	83.16	39.14	51.33	63.18
POSTECH <sup>[11]</sup>	81.67	38.16	52.79	63.17
Brandeis <sup>[3]</sup>	82.11	37.73	51.91	62.88
VTComputerVison <sup>[19]</sup>	79.95	38.22	51.95	62.06
MIL-UT <sup>[7]</sup>	81.98	37.56	49.75	61.77
klab <sup>[23]</sup>	81.53	39.27	49.61	61.69
SHB_1026 <sup>[13]</sup>	82.07	36.81	47.77	60.76
MMCX <sup>[8]</sup>	80.43	36.82	48.33	60.36
VT_CV_Jlasen <sup>[20]</sup>	80.56	38.14	47.87	60.33
LV-NUS <sup>[6]</sup>	81.34	35.67	46.1	59.54
ACVT_Adelaide <sup>[1]</sup>	81.07	37.12	45.83	59.44
UC Berkeley (DNMN) <sup>[15]</sup>	80.98	37.48	45.81	59.44
CNNAtt <sup>[4]</sup>	81.04	36.44	45.76	59.33
san <sup>[24]</sup>	79.11	36.41	46.42	58.85
UC Berkeley (NMN) <sup>[16]</sup>	81.16	37.7	44.01	58.66
global_vision <sup>[22]</sup>	78.24	36.27	46.32	58.43
vqateam-deeperLSTM_NormizeCNN <sup>[27]</sup>	80.56	36.53	43.73	58.16
Mujtaba hasan <sup>[9]</sup>	80.28	36.92	42.24	57.36
RIT <sup>[12]</sup>	78.82	35.97	42.13	56.61
Bolei <sup>[2]</sup>	76.76	34.98	42.62	55.89
UPV_UB <sup>[18]</sup>	78.88	36.33	40.27	55.77
att <sup>[21]</sup>	78.1	35.3	40.27	55.34
vqateam-lstm_cnn <sup>[28]</sup>	79.01	35.55	36.8	54.06
UPC <sup>[17]</sup>	78.05	35.53	36.7	53.62
vqateam-nearest_neighbor <sup>[29]</sup>	71.73	24.31	22	42.73
vqateam-prior_per_qtype <sup>[30]</sup>	71.17	35.63	9.32	37.55
vqateam-all_yes <sup>[26]</sup>	70.53	0.43	1.26	29.72

~ 30 teams

# What such a model can't do



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?

# It can't count...



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?



It doesn't have commonsense / knowledge...



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?

# It can't reason...



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?

It doesn't leverage compositionality...



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?



# It lacks consistency...



How many vegetarian slices are left in the pizza box?

# Visual Dialog

# VisDial Dataset

Live Two-Person Chat on Amazon Mechanical Turk





# VisDial Dataset

Live Two-Person Chat on Amazon Mechanical Turk



Caption: The man is riding his bicycle on the sidewalk  
You have to ASK Questions about the image.

Fellow Turker connected. Now you can send messages

Type Message Here:

Send

Caption: The man is riding his bicycle on the sidewalk  
You have to ANSWER questions about the image.



Fellow Turker connected. Now you can send messages

Type Message Here:

Send

# VisDial Dataset

- ~100k images
- 1 dialog per image
- 2 people
- 10 rounds per person

# Qualitative Results

## Visual Chatbot



Hi, I am a Visual Chatbot, capable of answering a sequence of questions about images. Please upload an image and fire away!

Drag and Drop Image  
here



Start typing question here ...





# Applications

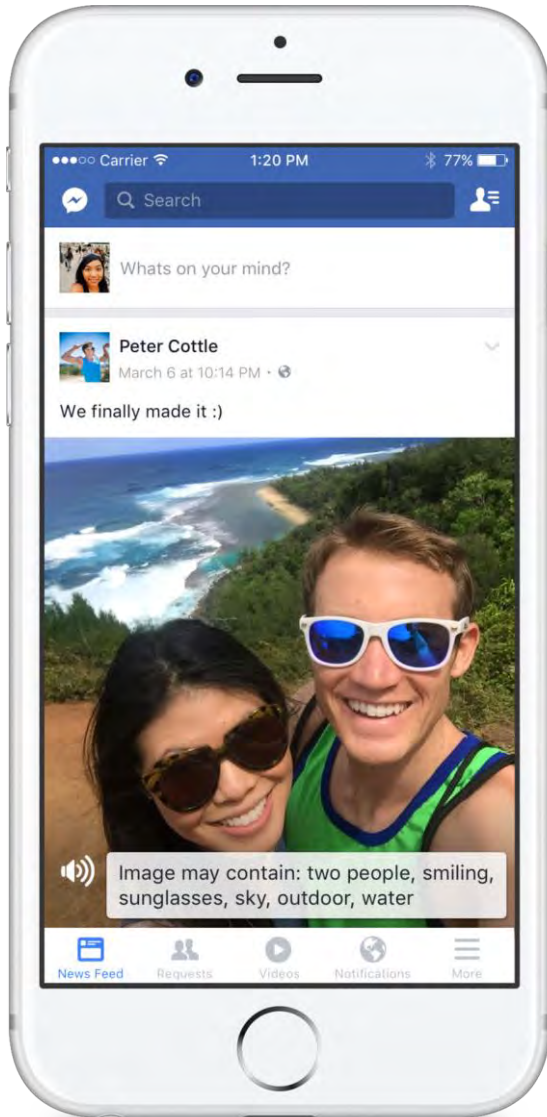


Peter just uploaded a picture from his vacation in Hawaii

Great, is he at the beach?

No, on a mountain

...



# Looking forward: Visual Dialog for Action

# Applications

Natural language instructions to an agent



Is there smoke in any room around you?

Yes, in one room

Go there and look for people

...





## Create a children's illustration!

Please help us create an illustration in an online story book by creating an outdoor scene from the clipart below. Use your imagination! Clipart may be added by dragging the clipart onto the scene, and removed by dragging it off. The clipart may be resized or flipped, and each clipart may only be added once. Please use at least 6 pieces of clipart in each scene. You will be asked to complete 3 different scenes. Press "Next" when finished with the current scene and "Done" when all are finished. Thanks!

Scene: 1/3

Size



Flip



Clipart



Describer sees a reference image  
**Actor** does now

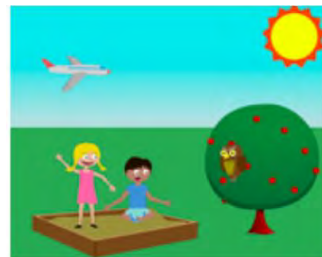


Actor: What is going on in the image overall?

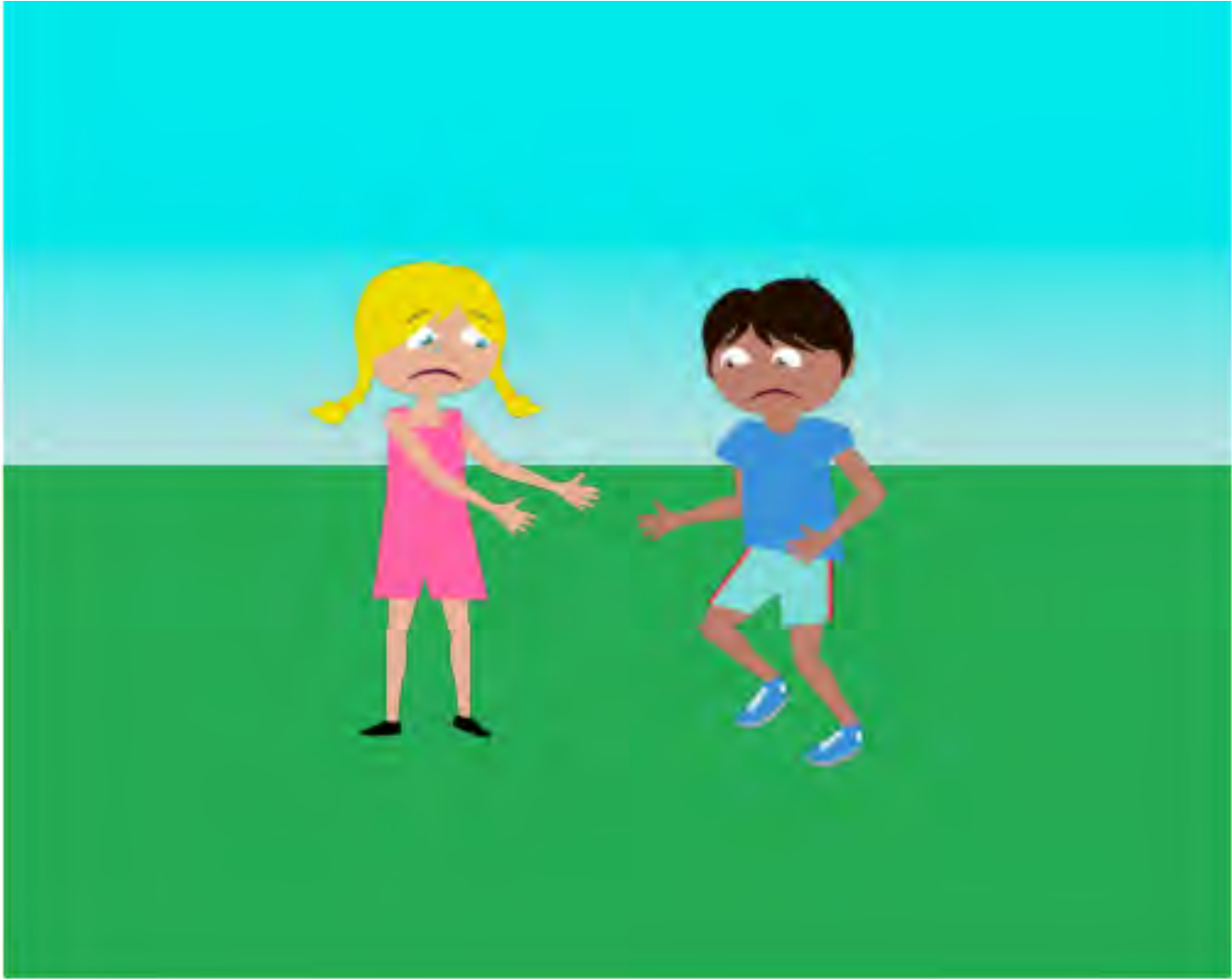
Describer: Two people are playing

Actor: Is Mike to Jenny's left?

Describer: No, on the right







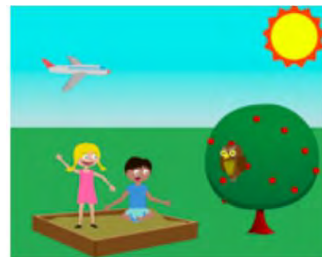
Actor: What is going on in the image overall?

Describer: Two people are playing

Actor: Is Mike to Jenny's left?

Describer: No, on the right

Describer: There is an airplane







Actor: What is going on in the image overall?

Describer: Two people are playing

Actor: Is Mike to Jenny's left?

Describer: No, on the right

Describer: There is an airplane

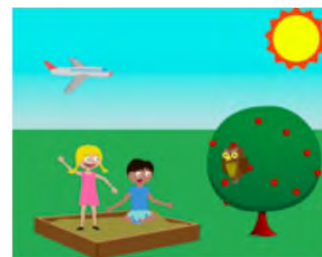
Actor: What else is there?

Describer: Sun is on the top right corner

Describer: And a tree on the right side with fruits

Actor: Is the plane going towards the sun?

Describer: Yes





Actor: What is going on in the image overall?

Describer: Two people



Actor: Is Mike to Jenny's left?

Describer: No, on the right

Describer: There is an airplane

Actor: What else is there?

Describer: Sun is on the top right corner

Describer: And a tree on the right side with fruits

Actor: Is the plane going towards the sun?

Describer: Yes

Describer: Jenny is standing

Describer: They are both standing in a sandbox

Actor: What expressions do they have?

Describer: Jenny is smiling while Mike is surprised

Actor: So there are just 6 objects in the image?

Describer: and there is an owl sitting on the tree

Describer: 7 objects

Describer: The plane is farther away from the sun. The whole tree is visible



# Common Sense



Man in blue wetsuit is surfing on wave  
Karpathy and Fei-Fei (Stanford) 2015



A group of young people playing a game of Frisbee  
Vinyals et al. (Google) 2015

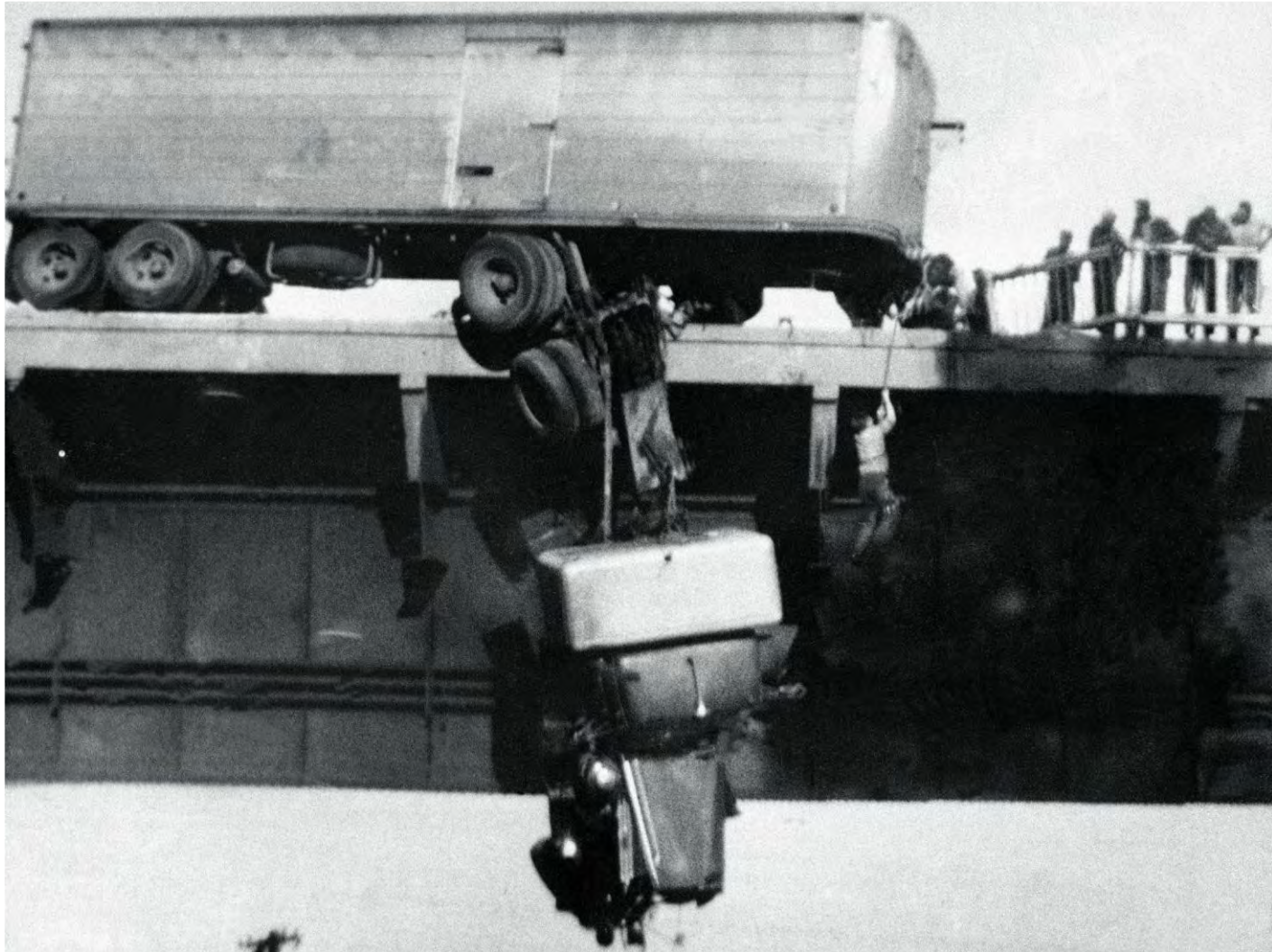


A car is parked in the middle of nowhere  
Kiros et al. (University of Toronto) 2015



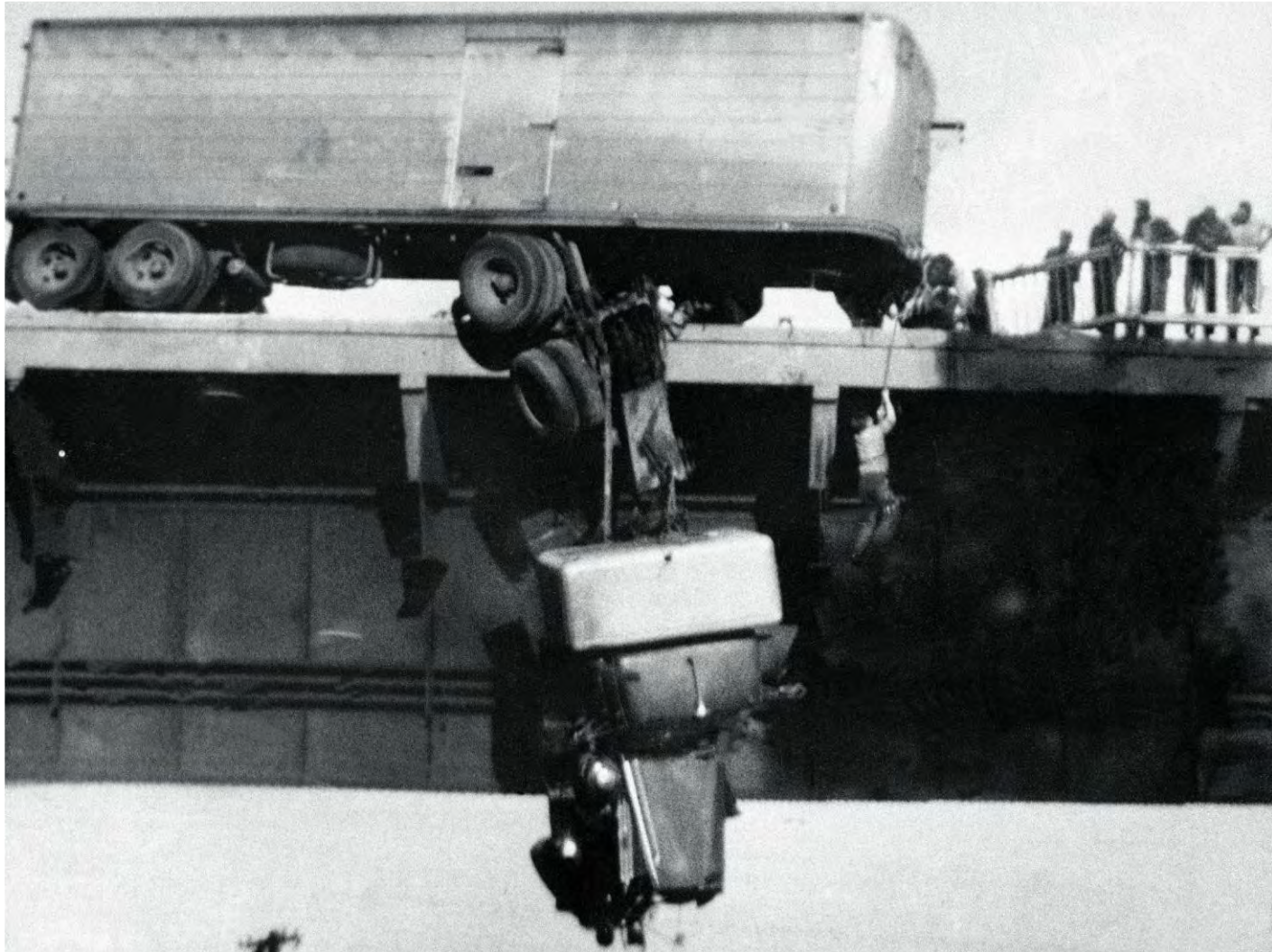
A pot of broccoli on a stove.  
Fang et al. (Microsoft Research) 2015

A man is rescued from his truck that is hanging dangerously from a bridge.





A man is *rescued* from his truck that is hanging *dangerously* from a bridge.



# Learning Common Sense

- Text
  - Reporting bias

# Reporting bias in text

<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>
spoke	11,577,917	244,458	hugged	610,040	10,378
laughed	3,904,519	169,347	blinked	390,692	20,624
murdered	2,843,529	11,284	was late	368,922	31,168
inhaled	984,613	4,412	exhaled	168,985	3,490
breathed	725,034	34,912	was punctual	5,045	511

[Gordon et al. 2013]



# Reporting bias in text

<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>
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breathed	725,034	34,912	was punctual	5,045	511

inhale:exhale = 6:1

[Gordon et al. 2013]

# Reporting bias in text

<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>K<sub>next</sub></i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>K<sub>next</sub></i>
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breathed	725,034	34,912	was punctual	5,045	511

murder:exhale = 17:1

[Gordon et al. 2013]

# Reporting bias in text

<i>Body Part</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>	<i>Body Part</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>
Head	18,907,427	1,332,154	Liver	246,937	10,474
Eye(s)	18,455,030	1,090,640	Kidney(s)	183,973	5,014
Arm(s)	6,345,039	458,018	Spleen	47,216	1,414
Ear(s)	3,543,711	230,367	Pancreas	24,230	1,140
Brain	3,277,326	260,863	Gallbladder	17,419	1,556

[Gordon et al. 2013]



# Reporting bias in text

<i>Body Part</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>	<i>Body Part</i>	<i>Teraword</i>	<i>Knext</i>
<b>Head</b>	<b>18,907,427</b>	1,332,154	Liver	246,937	10,474
Eye(s)	18,455,030	1,090,640	Kidney(s)	183,973	5,014
Arm(s)	14,573,778	1,050,515	Pancreas	24,230	1,140
Ear(s)	3,543,711	230,367	<b>Gallbladder</b>	<b>17,419</b>	1,556
Brain	3,277,326	260,863			

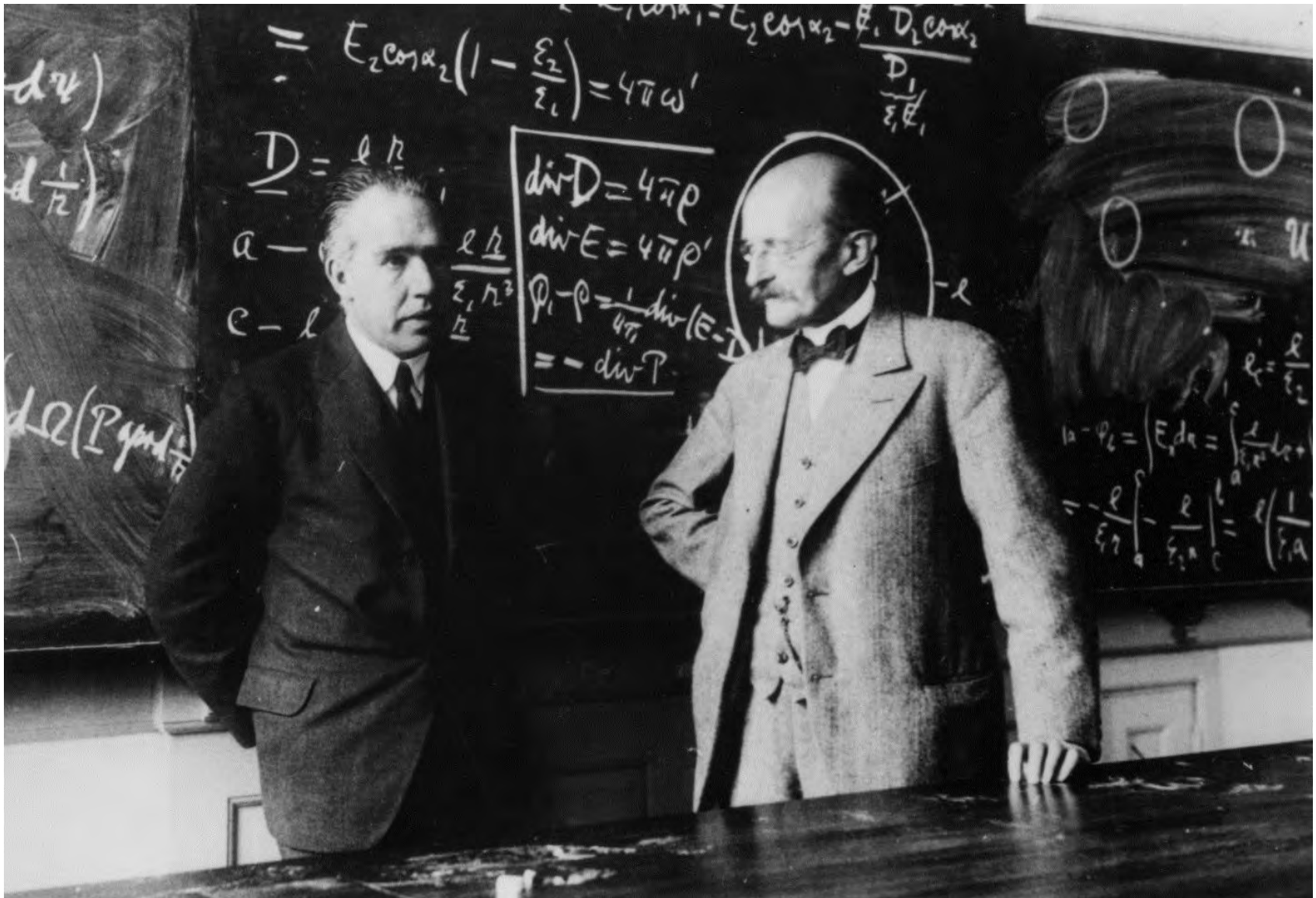
People have heads:gallbladders = 1085:1

[Gordon et al. 2013]

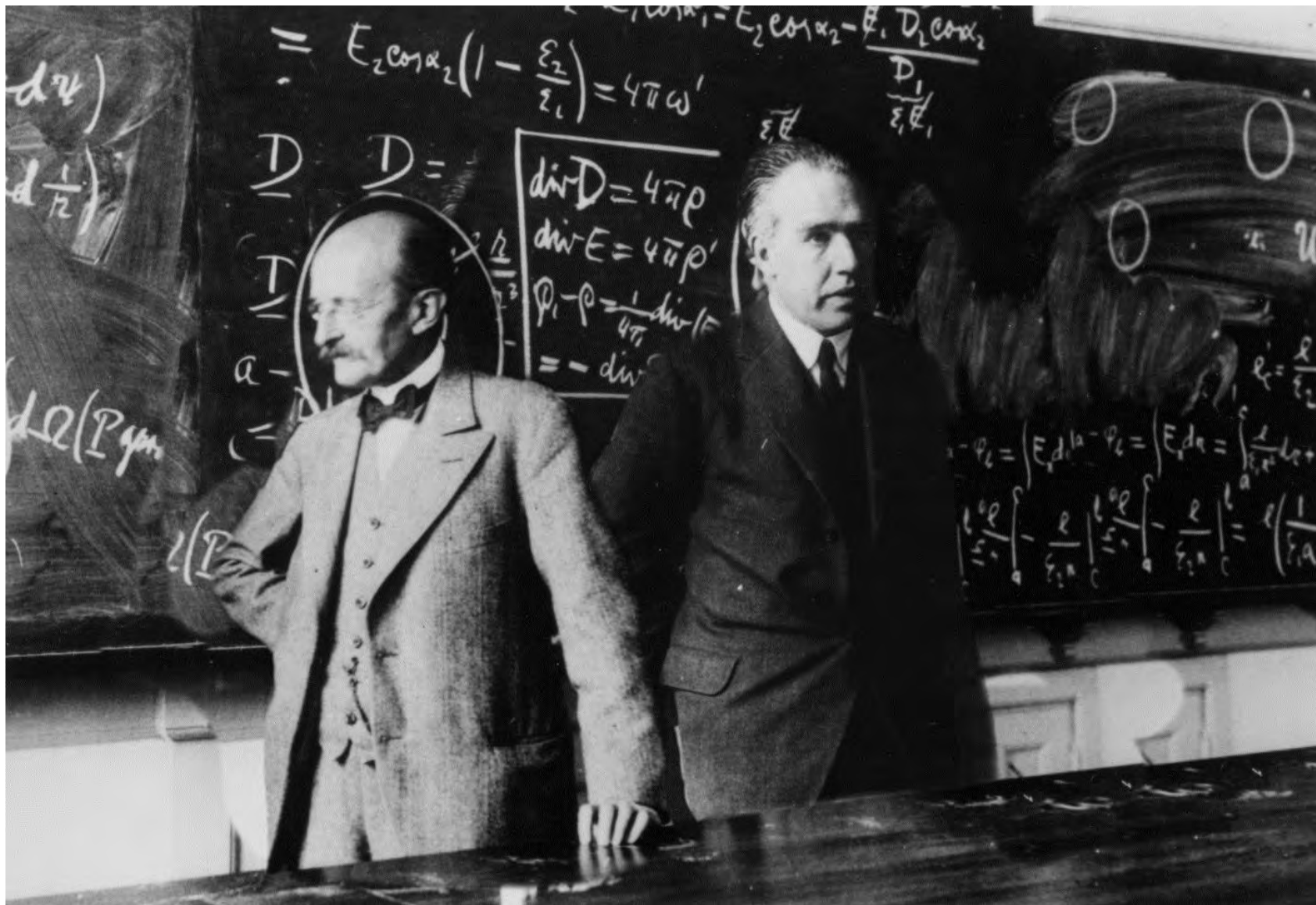
# Learning Common Sense

- Text
  - Reporting bias
- From structure in our visual world?

Two professors converse in front of a blackboard.

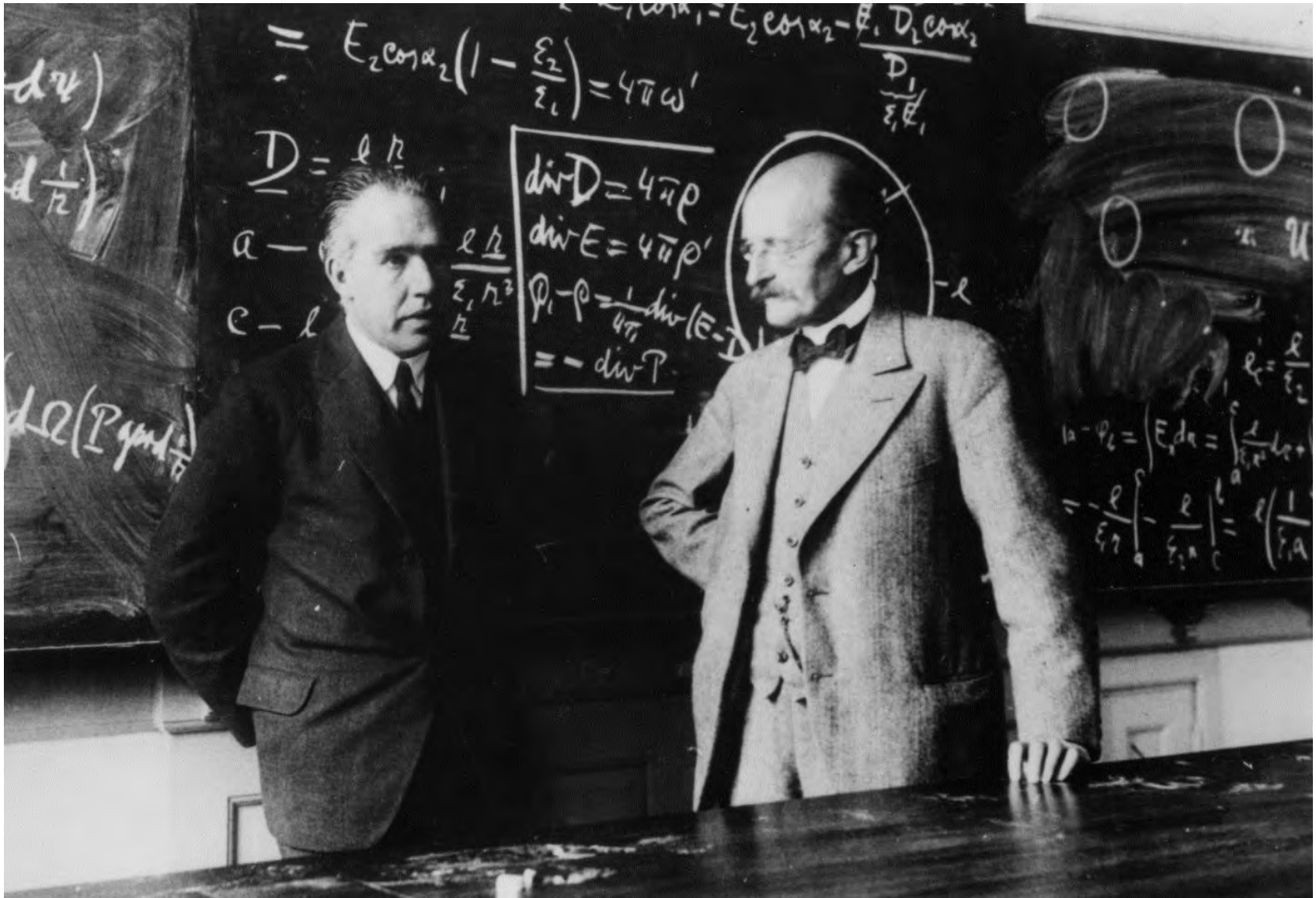


Two professors stand in front of a blackboard.



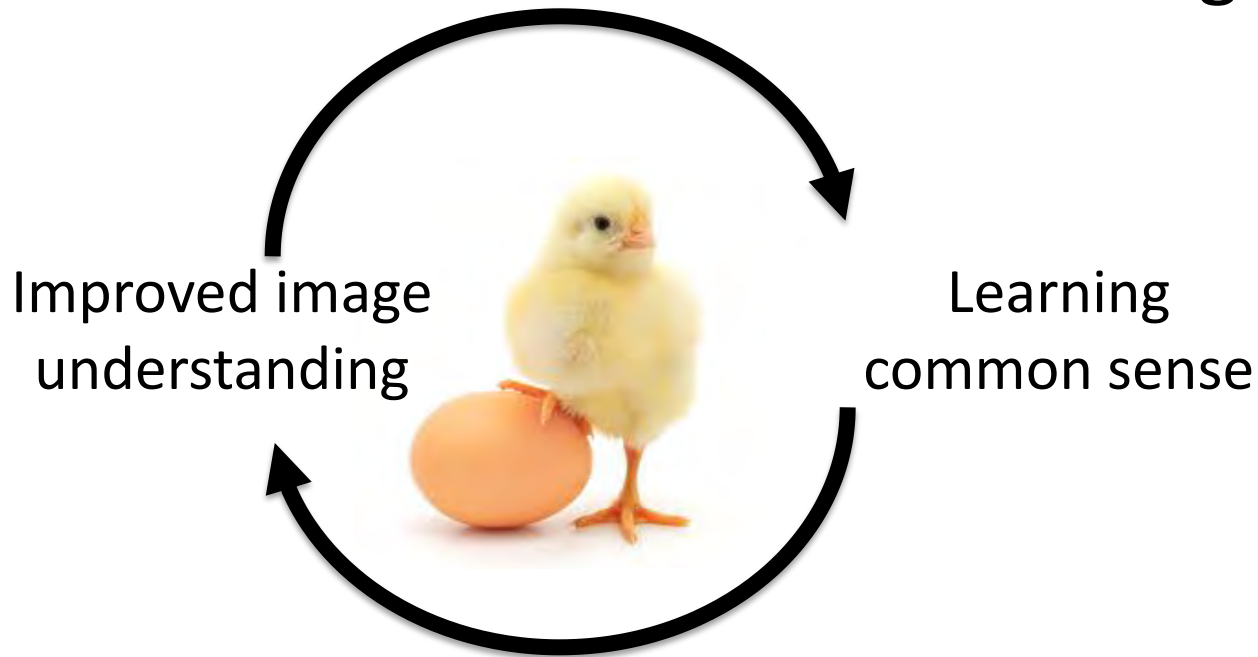


Two professors converse in front of a blackboard.

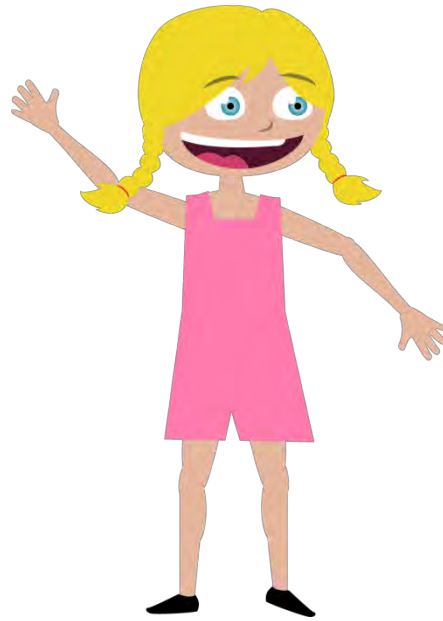


# Challenges

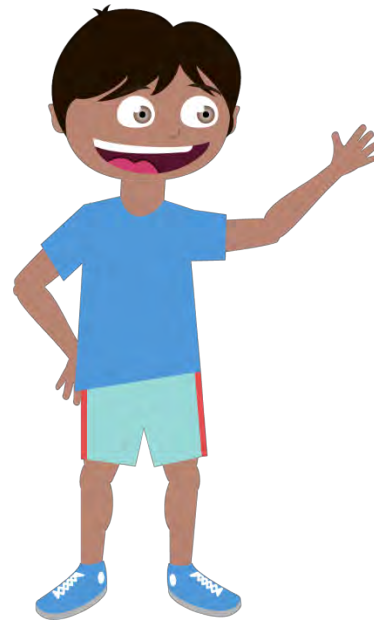
- Lacking visual density
- Annotations are expensive
- Computer vision doesn't work well enough



Is photorealism necessary?



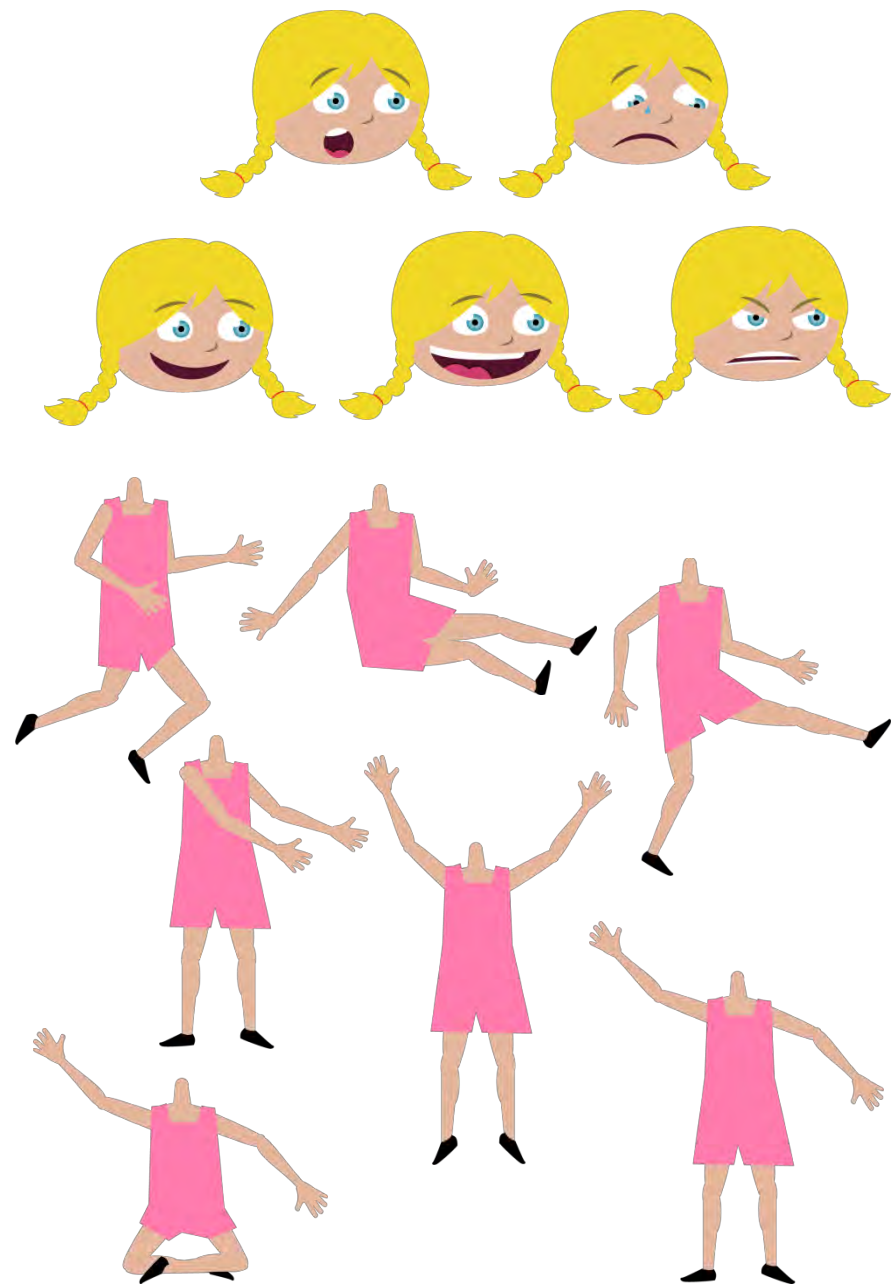
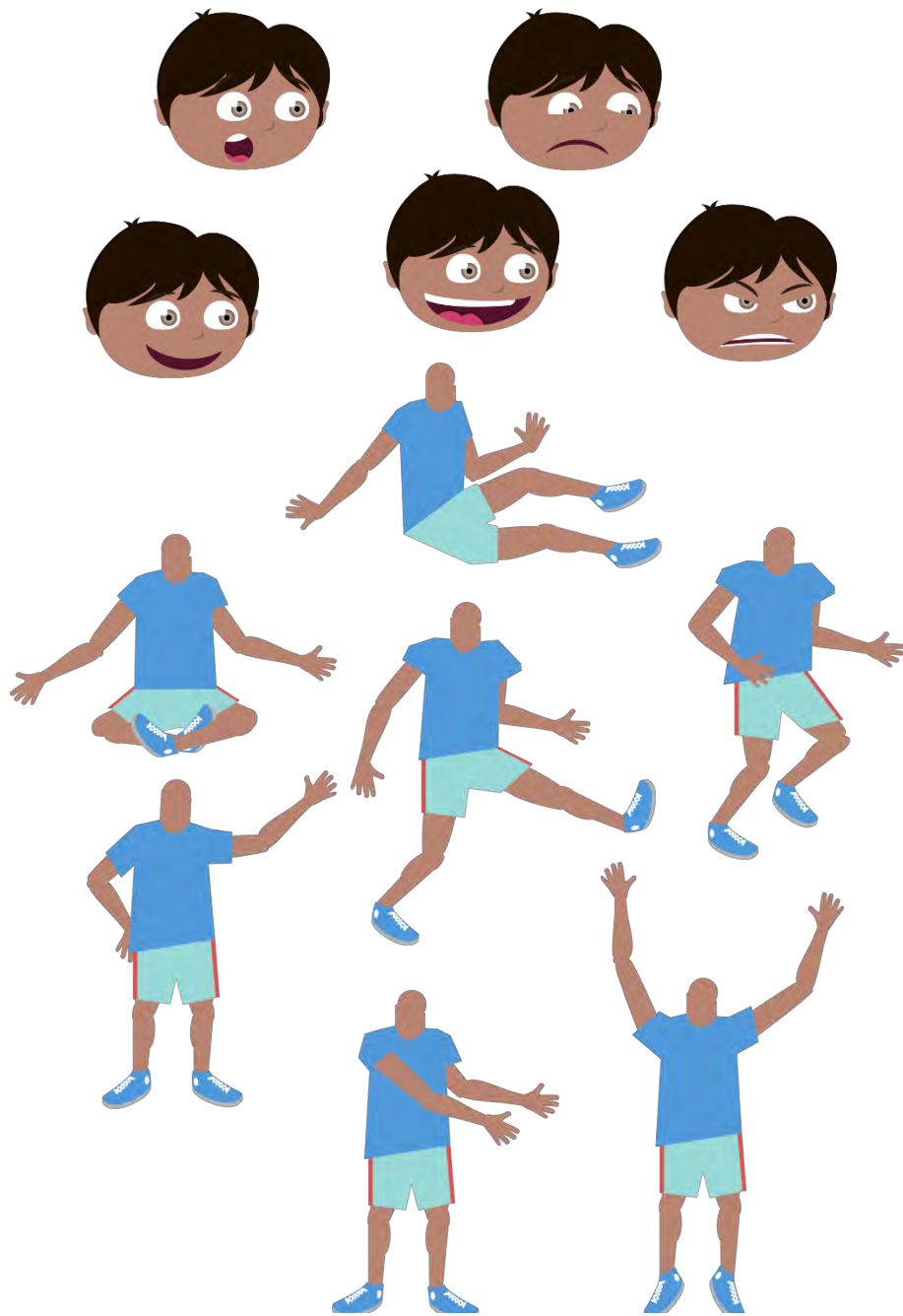
Jenny



Mike







Mike fights off a bear by giving him a hotdog while Jenny runs away.



# Commonsense Tasks

- Text-based tasks



Fill-in-the-blank:

Mike is having lunch when  
he sees a bear.

\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Mike orders a pizza.
- B. Mike hugs the bear.
- C. Bears are mammals.
- D. Mike tries to hide.

# Key idea

- Imagine the scene behind the text
- Reason about the visual interpretation of the text, not just the text alone

Visual Paraphrasing:  
Are these two descriptions  
describing the same scene?

1. Jenny was going to  
throw her pie at Mike.
2. Jenny is very angry.  
Jenny is holding a pie.

# Approach: Imagination

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mike is wearing a blue cap.  
Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.

- A. There is a tree near a table.
- B. The brown dog is standing next to Mike.
- C. The sun is in the sky.
- D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.



# Approach: Imagination

There is a tree near a table.  
Mike is wearing a blue cap.  
Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.

A

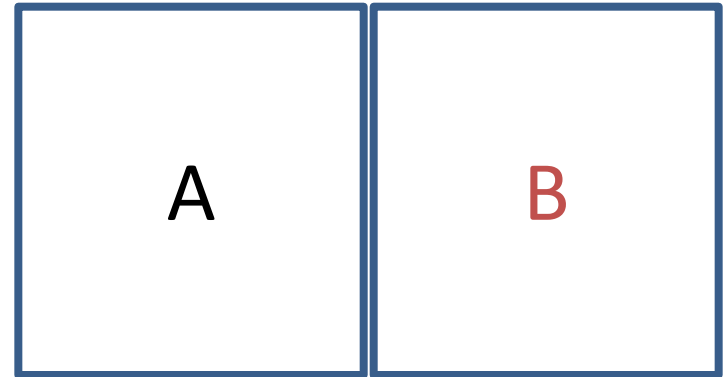
- A. There is a tree near a table.
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- D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.

# Approach: Imagination

The brown dog is standing next to Mike.

Mike is wearing a blue cap.

Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.



A. There is a tree near a table.

B. The brown dog is standing next to Mike.

C. The sun is in the sky.

D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.

# Approach: Imagination

The sun is in the sky.

Mike is wearing a blue cap.

Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.

A. There is a tree near a table.

B. The brown dog is standing next to Mike.

C. The sun is in the sky.

D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.

A

B

C

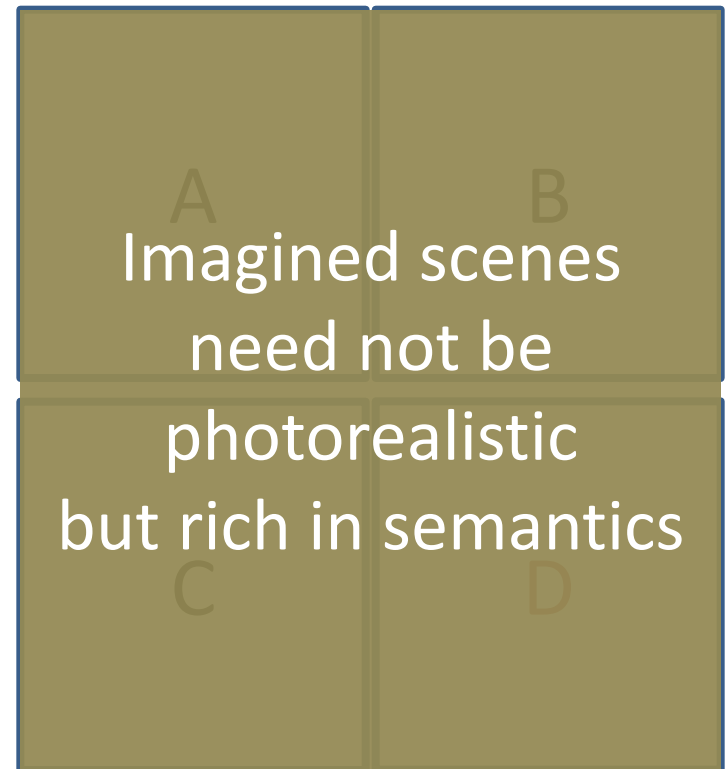
# Approach: Imagination

Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.

Mike is wearing a blue cap.

Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.

- A. There is a tree near a table.
- B. The brown dog is standing next to Mike.
- C. The sun is in the sky.
- D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.



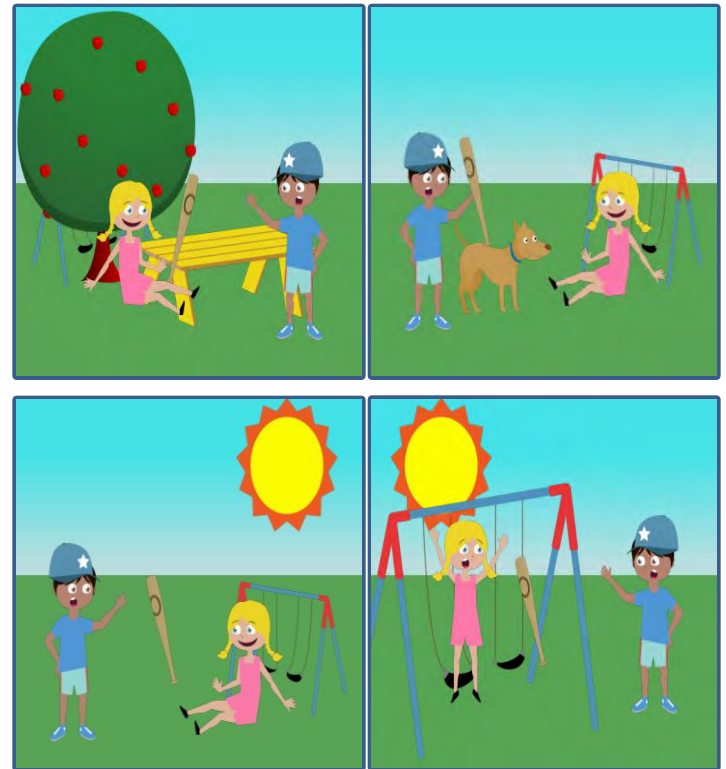


# Approach: Imagination

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mike is wearing a blue cap.  
Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.

- A. There is a tree near a table.
- B. The brown dog is standing next to Mike.
- C. The sun is in the sky.
- D. Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing.



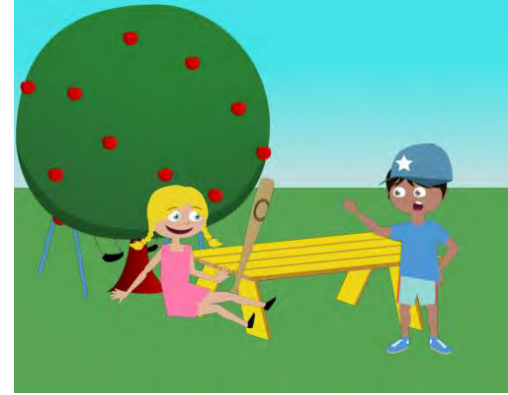
# Approach: Joint Text + Visual Reasoning

Jenny is standing dangerously on the swing. Mike is wearing a blue cap. Mike is telling Jenny to get off the



≧

There is a tree near a table. Mike is wearing a blue cap. Mike is telling Jenny to get off the swing.





“This terrified woman's home is being invaded by mice as the cat sleeps.”





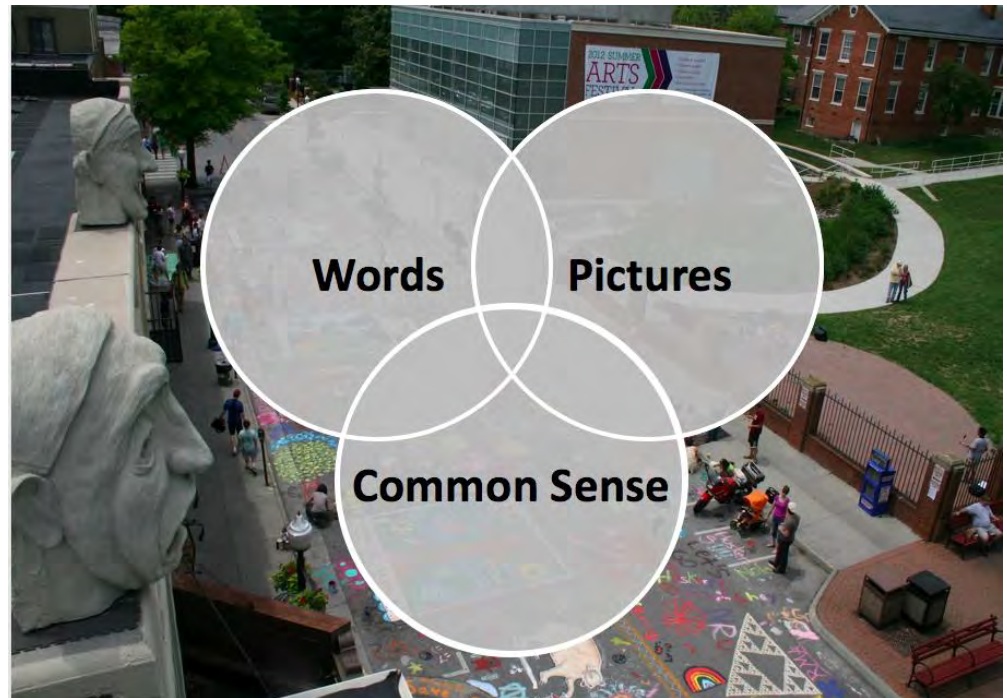
“The man is about to trip on his child's car and spill wine on his wife.”



# Summary: Visual Dialog

- Applications
  - Today's chatbots are blind!

- AI
  - Vision
  - Language
  - Attention
  - Reasoning
  - External knowledge
  - Common Sense
  - Action, Manipulation



# Thank you.

