

Intuition

intuition *noun*

🔊 /,ɪntjuˈɪʃn/

🔊 /,ɪntuˈɪʃn/

- ★ [uncountable] the ability to know something by using your feelings rather than considering the facts
 - *Intuition told her that he had spoken the truth.*
 - *He was guided by intuition and personal judgement.*
 - *The answer came to me in a flash of intuition.*
- ★ [countable] **intuition (that...)** an idea or a strong feeling that something is true although you cannot explain why
 - *I had an intuition that something awful was about to happen.*

It was a sweltering day. Thain and Aurora were driving down Maple Street, looking for a yard sale, when they spotted the old man. Waving at them with a halfhearted gesture, he looked as though he hadn't eaten for days.

sweltering = very hot

yard sale = an event in which people sell the things that they don't need in the yard of their house

spot = notice

He looked as though he hadn't eaten for days. => He wasn't really hungry, but he looked like a man who was weak because of hunger.

"Nine-thirty in the morning, and it's already beastly hot. I wish I had an iced tea right now. Open your window, will you, Thain?"

"Wow! Look at that old man, Aurora. Boy, I'd sure get out of this heat if I were him. . . . Pull over, will you? Let's give him a ride. He's going to faint if he doesn't get out of the sun."

beastly = awfully, terribly

pull over # pull out

faint = black out, collapse

“Thain, I wish you would stop taking pity on every weirdo you see. He’s probably an ax murderer. I bet he’ll kill us and steal the car if we pick him up.”

“I don’t think so. He looks harmless to me—just a poor old guy. He’s acting as if he’s sick.”

take pity on = sympathize with

weirdo (n.) = a strange-looking person

weird (adj.) = strange, unusual, odd

✚ He’s acting as if he’s sick. => He is really sick.

✚ He’s acting as if he were sick. => He isn’t really sick. He’s just pretending that he’s sick.

“But Sweetie, we’ve got to get to that yard sale. There won’t be anything worth buying if we don’t get there soon. If only no one buys that chest of drawers they advertised.”

“My male intuition is telling me we’d better stop.”

“If I had a nickel for all the times we’ve done things because of your male intuition, I’d be a rich woman. Aren’t females supposed to have the intuition, anyway? OK. I just hope we don’t end up in the newspaper headlines. I can see it all now: YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE MUTILATED BY SERIAL KILLER!”

Coins in the United States of America:



Penny
a one-cent coin



Nickel
a five-cent coin



Dime
a ten-cent coin

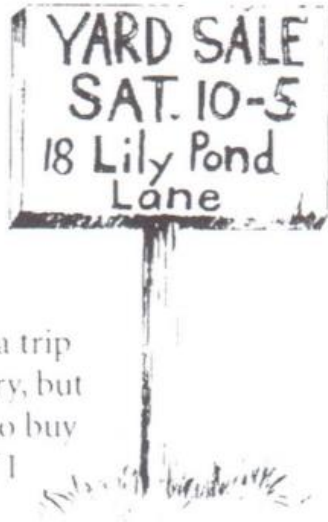


Quarter
a 25-cent coin

mutilate = cut off a person's body organs such as limbs
limb = arm or leg

They pulled up to the curb in front of the old man. "Need some help, sir?" Thain asked.

The old man smiled. "Yes, thank you. Could you take me to a pharmacy? I'm diabetic and I've run out of medicine. I'm on a trip around the country, but I keep forgetting to buy enough insulin. If I don't take my



medicine regularly, I go into shock. . . . If only I weren't so forgetful."

curb = the line separating the street from the sidewalk

if only = I wish

forgetful = absent-minded

diabetes *noun*

🔊 /,daɪə'bi:tɪz/

🔊 /,daɪə'bi:tɪz/

[uncountable]

★ a medical condition in which the body cannot produce enough **insulin** to control the amount of sugar in the blood

diabetic *adjective*

🔊 /,daɪə'betɪk/

🔊 /,daɪə'betɪk/

1 ★ having or connected with **diabetes**

- *She's diabetic.*
- *a diabetic patient*
- *diabetic complications*

They found a pharmacy and got the insulin. Back in the car, the old man said, "Now, if you can just take me to the bus station, I'll be on my way." Aurora frowned. Thain said, "Sure. We can do that." At the bus station, they helped the old man out of the car. "Can you tell me your names and your address? When I get back home, I'll send you a token of my appreciation." They gave him their names and address, said good-bye, and proceeded to the yard sale.

frown = make a face, give sb a black look, knit one's eyebrows # smile

token = sign

appreciation = thankfulness, gratitude

As Aurora had predicted, all of the good merchandise had been sold. "I wish we'd been able to get here in time to buy that chest of drawers," she said, "but I'm glad we stopped for the old guy. He did need our help. I'll be surprised if we ever hear from him, though. You don't really believe all that about his taking a trip around the country, do you, Thain?"

In a few days they had forgotten about the incident. Three months later they returned from a short vacation, and Aurora was going through the pile of mail that had accumulated in their absence. She opened a long envelope with no return address.

"What in the world? Thain, come here and look at this!" There was a letter inside, neatly typed, which said,

merchandise = goods, products, commodities

incident = happening, event

accumulate = pile up

return address # mailing address

Dear Thain and Aurora,

I finished my trip around the country and had a marvelous time. I'm now back at home and won't be traveling anymore, I don't think. I met some wonderful people in my travels, the two of you among them.

Thank you for your kindness to a forgetful old man. If you hadn't come along when you did and taken me to the pharmacy, I might have died. At the very least, I would have become quite ill. I wish there had been time for us to get to know one another. If I had been fortunate to have any children of my own, I couldn't have had any nicer ones than you two. At any rate, I am enclosing a token of my gratitude. My warmest regards,

Quentin Wilkerson

at any rate = anyhow, anyway
enclose = attach

Something fluttered out of a second sheet of folded paper. It was a check for fifty thousand dollars.