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Future CPA's guide to life and awesomeness

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5) THE FUTURE CPA'S **GUIDE TO LIFE** AND *Awesomeness*



THE **FUTURE CPA'S**
GUIDE TO LIFE
AND *Awesomeness*

THIS
WEEK
CPA

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VOLUME: 1

THE **FUTURE CPA'S**
GUIDE TO **LIFE**
AND *Awesome*ness

**THIS
WAY?**

CPA 



**YOU COULD BE THE ONE
WHO MAKES ACCOUNTING
THE NEW AWESOME.**

Who, you? Yes, you. The Chosen One. You may not have been warned until now of the power that lies in your hands. But you are the holder of this book for a reason. Heed the wisdom in these pages, and you could make accounting ridiculously awesome in ways the world has never known. This book does not ask much from you—only that you read and retain it better than you retained the wisdom of last semester's Spanish verb conjugations. Can you do it? We'll be watching.

GODSPEED.

THE FUTURE CPA'S
GUIDE TO LIFE
AND Awesomeness

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👉 LET'S BEGIN.

THE
CHOICE

Chapter 1



*Should you be a CPA? Is this
the life for you? Give it a ponder.*





You know you

There are two kinds of people in life: those with letters after their

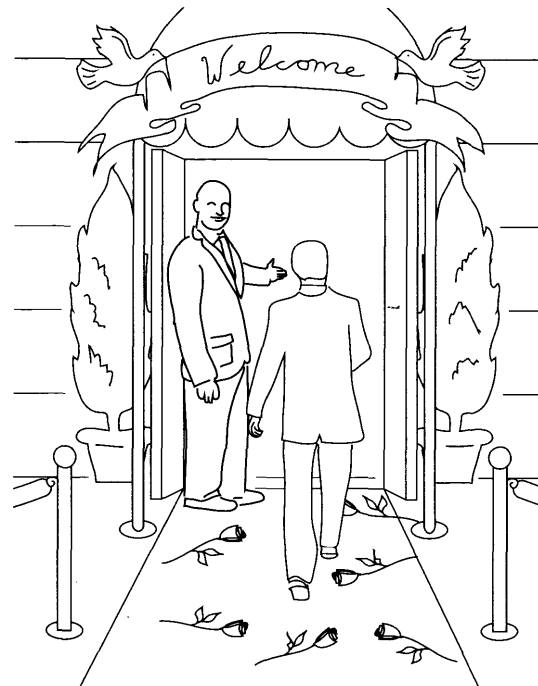


See **Bob Finkle** get denied.

***RESULTS MAY VARY.**

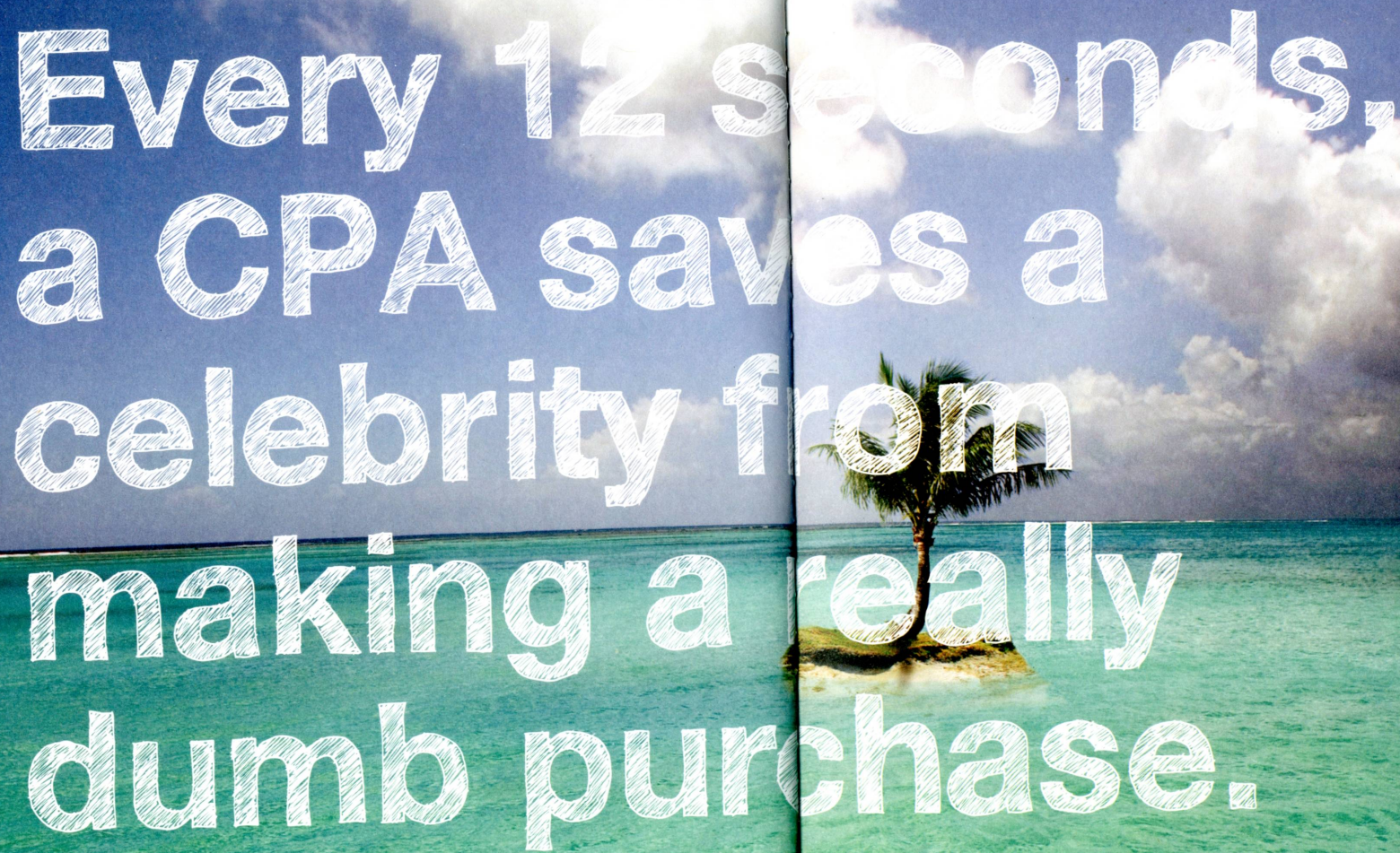
want an acronym.

name, and those with (sadly) no letters after their name. Choose wisely.



See **Bob Finkle, CPA** get the deluxe treatment.*

*Applies to Certified Public Accountant (CPA) acronym only. Acronyms are not interchangeable nor available for individual resale. Placing a false acronym after your name can and will be held against you in a court of law. An acronym may or may not get you a date. Acronyms are not transferrable by marriage or a "deal." Multiple acronyms are allowed and encouraged. Some exclusions apply.



Every 12 seconds,
a CPA saves a
celebrity from
making a really
dumb purchase.

LIFETIME
CERTAINTY OF:

IF ALL THAT'S CERTAIN IN LIFE IS

Dying

Paying taxes

Eating a spider

Stubbing a toe

Using the Internet

Dropping a cell phone

Doing the Chicken Dance

Meeting your soul mate

Owning a minivan

Crying at work

Finding 20 bucks

Starting an accidental fire

Learning Mandarin

Being on a reality show

Seeing the Mona Lisa

Kissing a celebrity

Visiting all 7 continents

Traveling to the moon

DEATH & TAXES,

HEY, WE'VE GOT JOB SECURITY.



OLÉ

**MOST AMERICANS
FEAR APRIL 15.
FOR YOU, IT'LL BE
FIESTA TIME.**

Milk your parents now,
before you're giving them
an allowance.



Quick. Get every penny's worth out of ol' Ma and Pa, because the real world is about to turn the tables. It's likely that up to this point in your life, **Mom and Dad**

have spent upwards of \$170,000

diapering and feeding and clothing and educating and cleaning up after you and your shenanigans. If you're going to even up the balance sheet like the



good CPA that you're soon to be, you'll need to start paying them back. The math shakes out to about **\$100 bucks a week over the next 30 years.**

Which may sound a little high for an allowance. But anything in the name of a balanced ledger, right?

Or you could just give 'em a hug.

The first rule of CPAhood is: Tell everyone you know about CPAhood.

It can be daunting to tell your friends and loved ones about your newfound career path. What will they say? How will they react? Many people simply don't know how flipping amazing the CPA career is. Here are some things you can say to help them understand.

☞ "CPAs make great money, so I'll buy you lots of presents." (if no response, add) "Expensive ones."

☞ "It's all the prestige without the med school price."

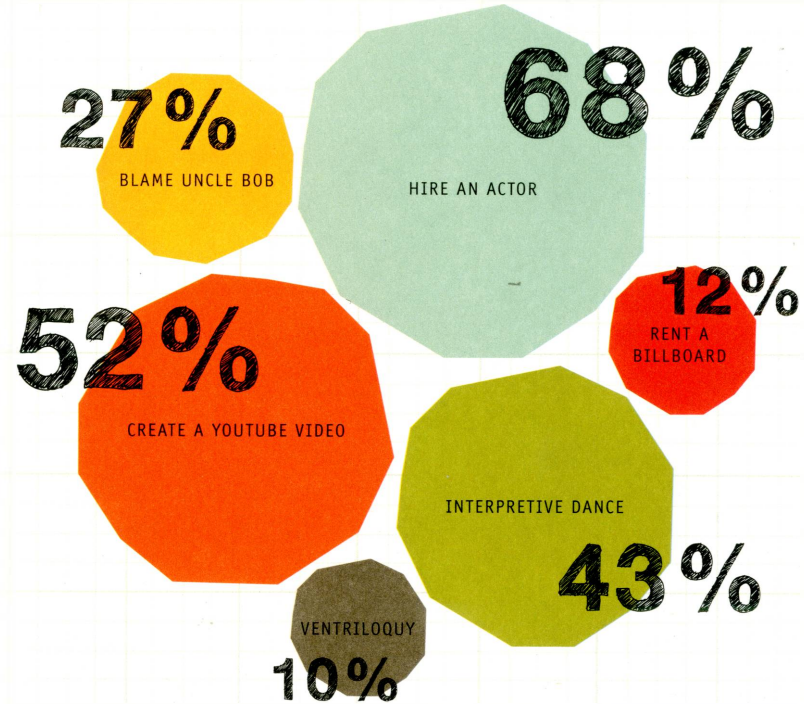
☞ "I could be [insert their celebrity crush]'s personal CPA. You are so in."

☞ "I'll probably never have to live in your basement!"

If these don't work, it's OK to get threatening.

☞ "I could work for the FBI someday, so watch what you say right now."

POPULAR METHODS OF ANNOUNCING PLANS TO BE A CPA AND THEIR RATES OF SUCCESS:



ALONG THE JOURNEY

Chapter

2



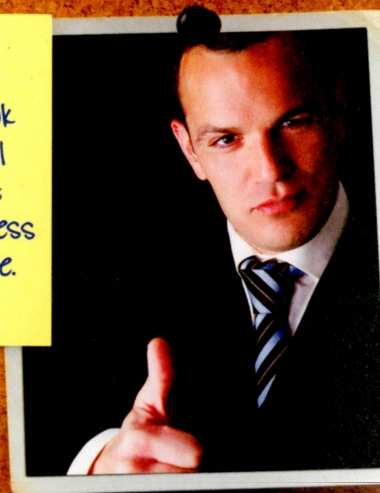
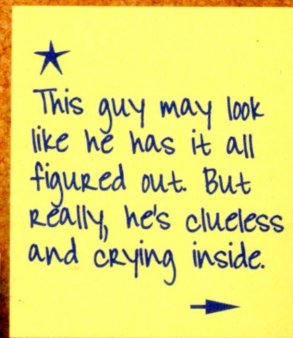
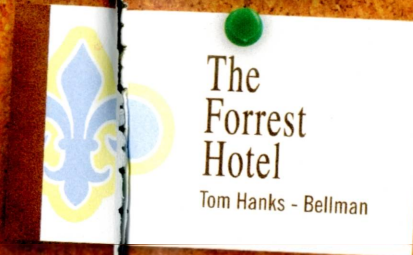
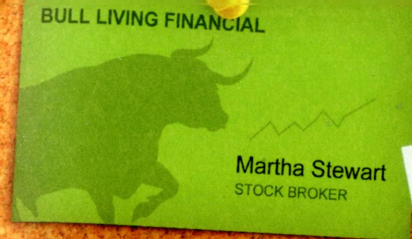
Prepare yourself for challenges on the way to CPA. No one wants to find you sobbing in a corner.

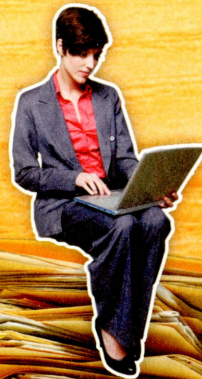


It's ok.
Nobody remotely
fun has their
5-year plan all
figured out.



Here's what these
wildly successful people
were doing before they
found their place in life.
So don't fret. There's
hope for you.





EVEN
**ENTRY-
 LEVEL
 ASTRONAUTS**
 HAVE
 TO PAY
their dues.



**BE THE BEST COFFEE-BREWING,
 COPY-MAKING, PAPER-FILING
 INTERN YOU CAN BE. IT'LL PAY OFF.**



IF YOU HEAR SOMEONE MOCKING ACCOUNTANTS,



YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. ✨

**Don't forget to thank
Big Bird for all that
early CPA prep.**



"I just adore 4, the number for me. You can't deplore 4.
It's less than 5—more than 3." -Big Bird

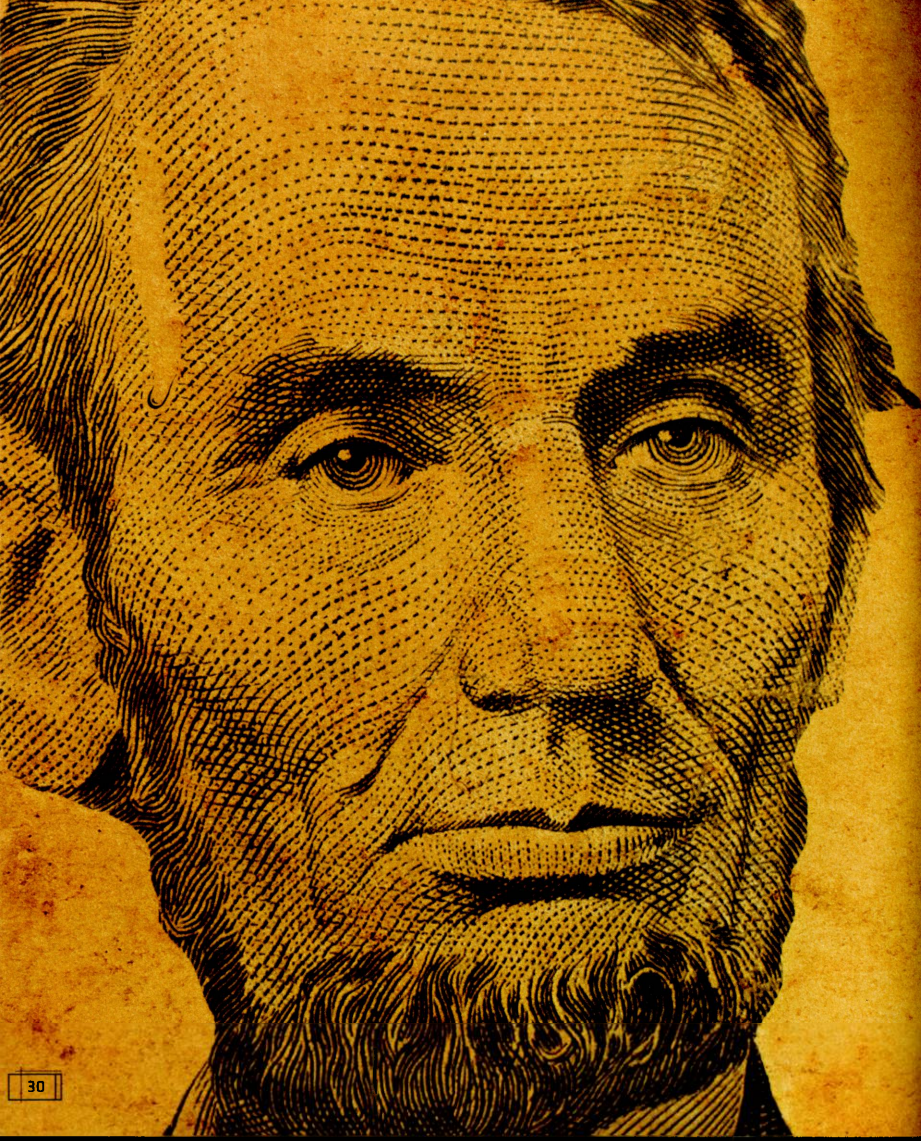
Dear Big Bird,

My name is _____. We have never met,
except in my dreams.

I watched you religiously in my childhood, and I am writing today to thank you. Thank you for all you have done for my career. The day I heard you sing about the number four, my life was changed forever. The passion and conviction you had for this number confirmed that my own appreciation of numbers was not at all strange, at least not in puppet land. You gave me the confidence to sing about the number four out loud in my own neighborhood—and to pursue a career as a CPA. And now, I make my living with numbers. I don't really sing about them anymore...but I should. Why did I ever stop? Anyway, thank you for inspiring me to become a CPA and teaching me a fraction of what I needed to know to be great at what I do. I am eternally grateful.

Yours truly,

P.S. You rocked the numbers way better than The Count. He was redundant and seriously creepy.



EVEN

Abraham Lincoln

GOT NERVOUS

And he didn't know squat about accounting.

WHAT PUT OUR 16TH PRESIDENT ON EDGE?

The rear wagon seat

Cold symptoms

Kittens on ledges

*The texture of cold boiled ham**

His wife

Armed Confederate soldiers

Misplacing his top hat

Beard trims

A long list and still, he became president. So take a deep breath and remember Abe when you've got those pre-interview jitters. And know that you, too, can be president (*of something*).

Just think of the accounting theme party you can throw when all of this is over.

Throw your own accounting theme party tonight!

A few recommendations from Rhoda Clarke, financial theme party expert:



Invitations

It is proper to invite your guests with a formal memo typed by your secretary and hand-signed by you. Electronic memos (spell-checked) are acceptable if you're short on time.



Food

Soon, you'll be making the big bucks, and you'll have the finger foods to prove it. Practice the part early by having caviar, French cheese puffs and mini mushroom quiche caps on the nibble table.



Décor

If you think ties look good on you, wait until you see them hanging from your ceiling! You might also consider Post-it notes as coasters, strategically placed pens and paperwork, and free wi-fi.



Drink

Any good accounting theme party must be thrown in true busy-season style. Be sure to stock the bar with coffee, Red Bull and other assorted caffeinated beverages.



Attire

Tell your guests in advance what they should wear to the party. See pages 50-51 for proper dress. Or, you may opt for a business casual event.



Jams

Here are a few suggestions for your rockin' accounting party playlist:

Bachman-Turner Overdrive – Takin' Care of Business
Donna Summer – She Works Hard for the Money
Steve Miller Band – Take the Money and Run
Barenaked Ladies – If I Had a Million Dollars
Guns N' Roses – Welcome to the Jungle
Eddie Money – Two Tickets to Paradise
Puff Daddy – It's All About the Benjamins
The Offspring – Why Don't You Get a Job
Dolly Parton – 9 to 5
The Beatles – Taxman
The Eagles – Life in the Fast Lane
Destiny's Child – Bills, Bills, Bills
Everclear – I Will Buy You a New Life

Enjoy your celebration!



Activities

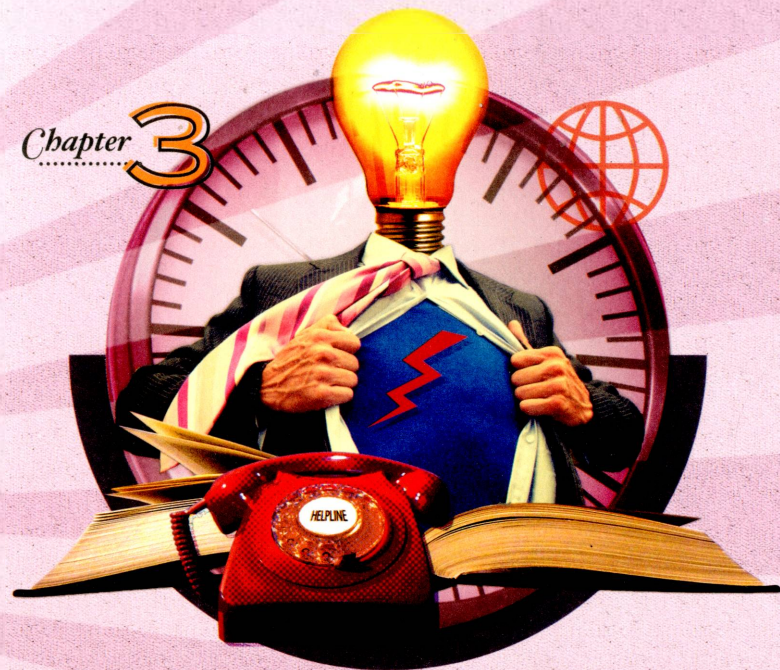
Have personalized office ID cards on hand for each guest to wear when they arrive. Games are a pleasant break for hard-working CPAs, so consider playing such pastimes as Correct the Ledger, Desk Chair Go-Round, or Sing the Employee Handbook.

It is also a thoughtful touch to send your guests home with an office favor, such as a stress relief ball or a red pen.



THAT DANG
EXAM

Chapter 3



You'll want to curse it much more than that. When you do, come back to this very spot.

WIKIPEDIA CAN'T

THIS TEST,

HELP YOU WITH

MY FRIENDS.



Don't worry

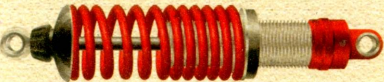
the **bags** under your eyes are probably not **permanent**.

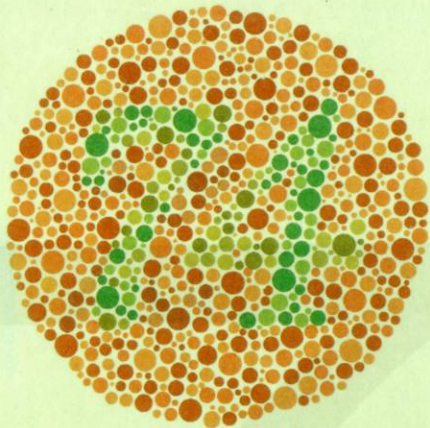
GAAP. BEC. IFRS.

*IF YOU KNOW YOUR ABCs,
YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE.*

STANDARD PROTOCOL

YOUR GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL ACRONYMS

- 
- AICPA ... American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 - GAAP ... Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
 - IFRS ... International Financial Reporting Standards
 - PDA ... Public Display of Affection
 - ASB ... Auditing Standards Board
 - SEC ... Securities & Exchange Commission
 - OMG ... Oh Mah Gah
 - VITA ... Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
 - GL ... General Ledger
 - SOYD ... Sum-Of-the-Year's-Digits
 - BEC ... Business Environment & Concepts
 - NASBA ... National Assoc. of State Boards of Accountancy
 - HKSA ... Hong Kong Society of Accountants
 - MIP ... Member in Practice
 - AAAA ... Affiliated Americans Against Acronyms
 - FASB ... Financial Accounting Standards Board
 - IT ... Information Technology
 - AR ... Arkansas
 - COO ... Chief Operating Officer

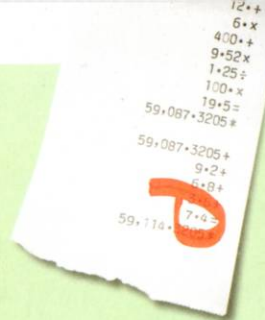


74

After this, you will forever hate the number

74

01001010



SEVENTY-FOUR



But you are going to looooooove 75.





KUNG PAO CHICKEN.

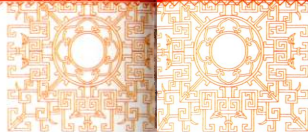
NOT THE BEST CHOICE ON CPA EXAM EVE.



How to make Homemade Rice Cakes

Ingredients:

3/4 cup rice, 1/2 cup water, Salt



THE RICE. EAT THE RICE.

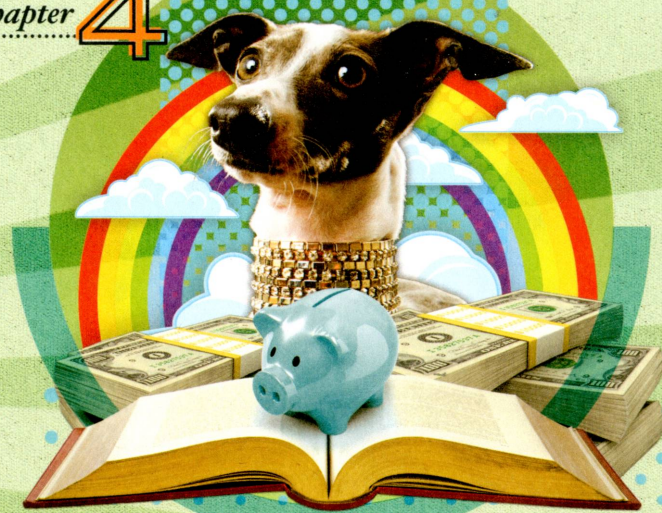
1. Begin by cooking the rice until done and just a little of the water is left in the pan.
2. Let the rice rest off the heat for five to ten minutes, or until all the water has absorbed into the rice and the rice has gotten stickier.
3. After resting, pack into patties. Then fry the patties for 30 seconds per side.
4. Let cool and eat plain. *qǐng mǎn yòng* (bon appétit)



PASSING THE
EXAM FEELS LIKE
MARSHMALLOWY
SUNSHINE.
YOU'LL SEE.

LIFE AFTER LICENSE

Chapter 4



The last phase before you blossom into a true CPA. It's not without its trials, nor its moments of sheer ecstaticness.



IF YOU BELIEVE IN POWER SUITS, GOSH DARNIT YOU SHOULD WEAR ONE.

1 KNOW YOUR SEASONS

Summer: Mid-May to Mid-September—linen, cotton, seersucker, deodorant

Winter: Late September to May—wool, polyester, snowsuit



2 KNOW YOUR FABRICS

Cashmere	Cotton
Flannel	Silk
Herringbone	Linen
Polyester	Seersucker
Tweed	Poplin
Wool	Tablecloth



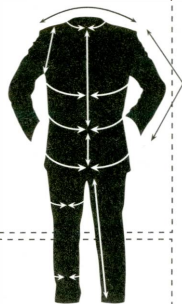
3 KNOW YOUR BREASTING

It's simple. A double-breasted suit will make you look chubby.



4 KNOW YOUR MEASUREMENTS

Use a tape measure in all these places. **Don't lie.** Also take into consideration how many burgers you've been eating lately. **Don't lie.**



5 KNOW THESE OTHER THINGS

- Pleats are to be avoided at all costs.
- If the suit doesn't fit, it's going to look silly, and so will you.
- You shouldn't need a belt or suspenders. Then again, suspenders are awesome.
- Be nice to your tailor. He's holding sharp pins within inches of your vital organs.
- You'll need shoes. But that's a whole other lesson.



Pattern can add interest to your suit, but use it wisely. Can you spot the pattern that will get you laughed out of the office?

**DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
NERVES.**

**SWEATY
PALMS SAY,
"I CARE."**



Fig. 1.

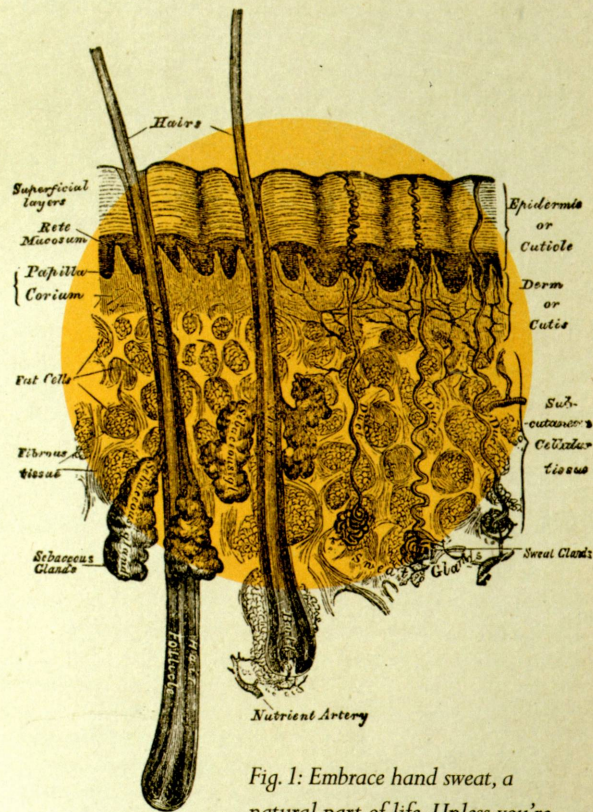


Fig. 1: Embrace hand sweat, a natural part of life. Unless you're sweating at odd times like while eating a sandwich. That's gross.

*Wherever you interview,
open the microwave.*

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

While you may have gotten this far without knowing which fork to use, **IT'S TIME.**

EMPLOYERS WANT TO SEE HOW YOU'LL CONDUCT YOURSELF IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS. MAKE A DAZZLING IMPRESSION BY KNOWING ALL THE TOOLS IN FRONT OF YOU AT MEALTIME.

DINNER FORK

This is your most valuable main course utensil. You may hold it in either hand, just don't clench it in your fist like a caveman. When finished, place the fork completely on your plate.

SALAD FORK

This is a fork. For salad. It will always be on the outside, so just remember to start there.

NAPKINS: A PRIMER

- The napkin is there for you to use. To ignore the napkin is to force everyone else to ignore the huge blob of sauce on your chin.
- Place the napkin on your lap as soon as you take your seat. This ensures no one else will have the awkward job of doing it for you.
- Set the napkin on the table next to your fork if you have to get up during the meal for any reason. The napkin is not your bathroom buddy.
- Leave your napkin on the table when you leave the restaurant. It's the least you can do for someone who has to pick up your dried saliva rag.

BUTTER KNIFE & BREAD PLATE

Use the knife to take some butter and put it on your bread plate. Then, reminding yourself that you are not in a scarfing environment, tear off and gently butter one piece of bread from your roll at a time.

DESSERT SPOON & FORK

Don't touch these until there is sweet goodness in front of you.

FIRST COURSE KNIFE

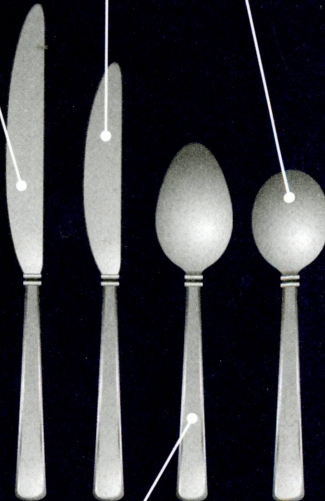
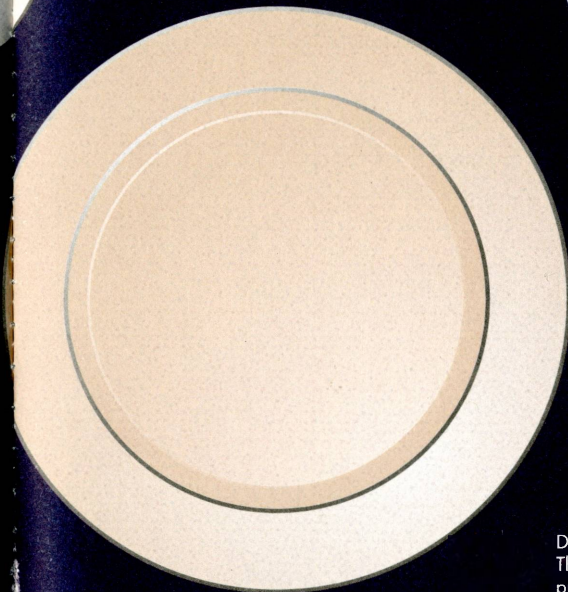
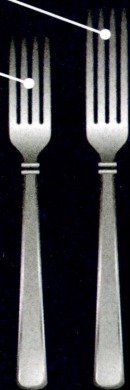
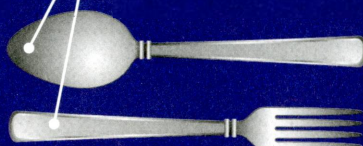
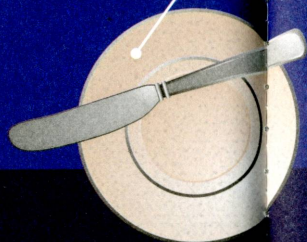
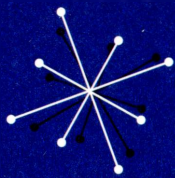
Should your salad or appetizer need cutting, turn here.

SOUP SOON

If your soup is chunky, eat from the side of the spoon. If it's smooth, eat from the front. But most importantly, do not slurp.

DINNER SPOON

This is your tool for mashed potatoes, purées—the baby foods on your plate.



Never pretend to be smarter or better looking than you actually are.

TEST: See if you can put together a person who isn't trying too hard.



You'll be the youngest one at the Ritz-Carlton.

AHHH, YES. WORKING AS A CPA CAN TAKE YOU TO LUXURIOUS LOCALES THE AVERAGE 20-SOMETHING WON'T SEE FOR ANOTHER 15 YEARS (*IF EVER*). TO FIT IN WITH ALL THOSE CLASSY GROWN-UPS, YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT TIPPING.

GENERAL TIPPING TIPS

RULE #1: Keep the Washingtons handy. Make sure there are a few uncrumpled dollar bills in your pocket to avoid awkwardly digging for them in front of your tipee.

RULE #2: Never ask for change. You're essentially asking, "Hi, do you have five ones so I can tip you with two of them?" Tacky, tacky, tacky.

RULE #3: Know the hotel tipping policy. The higher-end hotels are instituting "no-tipping policies" that incorporate gratuities into the price of the room. In that case, you're off the hook.



WHO AND HOW MUCH TO TIP

AIRPORT SHUTTLE DRIVER: \$1-\$2 per person

TAXI OR LIMO DRIVER: 15-20% of the total fare. A little extra if they handle your luggage or drive 90 mph to get you to the airport on time.

DOORMAN: \$1-\$2 per bag they help you with (more if you overpacked). You do not have to tip if they simply open the door for you. Just say thanks.

BELL STAFF: \$1-\$2 per bag if they take your bags to your room. If they prepare your room and show you around, make it \$5-\$10.

ROOM SERVICE: A 12-15% tip is usually already included in the price of your order, but check the menu. Tip extra if you get five-star service.

MAIDS/HOUSEKEEPING: Yes, you should leave a tip for your maid each day—\$1-\$5, depending on the quality of hotel. Put the money in an envelope and clearly mark it so they know it's for them.

MASSAGE THERAPIST: Hey, you might need one. Tip 15-20% of the total bill.

Big word of the day

Gratuity / gruh-too-i-tee (n.) A fancy word for "tip".



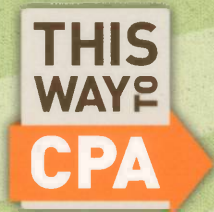
NOW GO AND SHOW THE WORLD HOW GREAT WE ARE.

Congratulations on making it to the last page of future-CPA wisdom. You now know how to dress with style, tip the bellman and calm Abe Lincoln's nerves in the afterlife. You have all the tools you need to make this profession look good. So take your new bucket of knowledge and prove to planet Earth that the calculator-toting, green-visor-wearing stereotype of the CPA is dead. Because, hello, you are a C-P-A. And you are ridiculously awesome.

**HOORAY, YOU MADE IT TO THE END OF THE BOOK.
PUT THAT ON YOUR RESUME.**

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10-ACA947366



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