

Ya Had to Be There: Science Confirms We're Bad at Telling Stories

February 17, 2017

LiveScience:

Go ahead: Tell that same story about your college shenanigans the next time you're out with your friends. They'll thank you for it.

A new study finds that people prefer hearing familiar stories to new ones, probably because people are generally such bad storytellers that brand-new tales are just confusing.

“When our friends try to tell us about movies we've never seen or albums we've never heard, we usually find ourselves bored, confused and underwhelmed,” study researcher Daniel Gilbert, a psychologist at Harvard University, said in a statement. “That's because those experiences are so complex that they are nearly impossible for an ordinary person to communicate well. And yet, as soon as it's our turn to speak, we do exactly the same thing to our friends — with exactly the same consequences.”

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