

# Monologue Joke Examples

Hello and welcome to This Week on Earth! The science comedy show that's not just from this week and not entirely on Earth. Let's get into some of the recent updates from planet Earth:

## Materials Science

Starting off with materials science:

[Researchers](#) say they have come up with a clever way to make aluminum tubes unsinkable. Unfortunately, these are the researchers:



In a huge win for batteries recently, [researchers](#) say they've overcome a major voltage limit. These new lithium batteries have been described as: high-capacity, five-volt-class, all-solid-state, Turbo Precision, Quadruple blade, HyperFlex countoring... I'm sorry this became an ad for razors. The point is, folks, batteries are better now.

## Healthcare News:

Moving on to our healthcare stories:

[Scientific American](#) highlighted real-world evidence suggesting a shingles vaccine may reduce dementia risk over time. Another cure for shingles? Really bad dementia.

[Scientific American](#) reported early safety results for a nonhormonal birth control pill for men to ingest. But there is [evidence](#) that men will not consistently remember to consume the product. So researchers are exploring using the flavor: Cool Ranch.

The [FDA](#) approved an **oral** version of the GLP1, Wegovy. This pill gives people a non-injection option to lose weight. Making this pill the only thing patients will wanna eat.

And, once again, to incentivize usage, makers are exploring using the flavor: Cool Ranch.

Huge news for Alzheimer's research, A [Nature](#) paper has identified sleep as a major way our brains can prevent Alzheimer's and all kinds of brain disorders. And as a sleep deprived new parent, might I just say- That's one chalupa you can take to the bank! Back to you, David.

Alternative:

Huge news for Alzheimer's research, A Nature paper has identified sleep as a major way our brains can prevent all kinds of brain disorders. And as a sleep deprived new parent, might I just say- It's a good thing, I'm not gonna remember this study.

[Neuroscientists](#) have found the part of your brain that's responsible for procrastination. And they'll tell us where it is eventually.

Just kidding. I read the paper. Here's how it works: Procrastination happens when the limbic system, which seeks immediate pleasure, pleasure sort of like scrolling on Instagram, and finding reels like this reel of a kitten on a roomba set to the tune of Riding Dirty, which is an oldie but a goodie, and was parodied as "White & Nerdy" by Weird Al Yankovic, who hasn't released a parody in a while, maybe because he procrastinates...

And for our next story:

Mexican scientist [Eva Ramón Gallegos](#) is the first to eradicate HPV in dozens of women by using photodynamic therapy. So whoever said sunlight is the best disinfectant was... pretty close.

Same for whoever said laughter is the best medicine. After photodynamic therapy. And penicillin. Whatever, it's not a competition.

[Researchers](#) found that cannabis increased appetite regardless of the type of food or the type of person in a study where participants were given real and placebo cannabis. The results were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, or PNAS. And if you laughed at that name, you probably weren't in the control group.

## This Brief on Earth

And now for the corner of our show on climate and ecology, we like to call "This Brief on Earth":

A recent [paper](#) showed poop from penguin colonies are a major ammonia source that helps drive cloud formation, possibly cooling the earth by reflecting sunlight back to space. So yes, climate change is basically some teenage alien boy's prank on humanity: it's partly caused by cow farts and partly solved by penguin poop.

A sherpa in Nepal just climbed Mt. Everest for a 23rd time, breaking his own record. He celebrated the same way he always does: By climbing down Mt. Everest.

A molecular biologist at Louisiana State University has [developed](#) plant-based mardi gras beads embedded with okra seeds to help the beads decompose. So how do you get the beads? Oh you know how... (eyebrow raise, twirls beads around fingers, and this graphic):



These beads make mardis gras more sustainable because the beads will eventually go away. Unlike certain tattoo choices.



[Scientists](#) are testing whether adding alkaline minerals to seawater can boost the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide and reduce acidification. This is part of the The LOC-NESS project (short for Locking Ocean Carbon in the Northeast Shelf and Slope). It's a good idea, but it doesn't compare to my proposal: "Bio-Integrated Geo-Foam Ocean Oxygenation Technique".....

(this graphic:)



## Animal News

And now for our animal news section, underwritten by the fine folks at PBS Nature:

[Researchers](#) in China injected rabbits with snake venom and found the rabbits healed better when treated with Botox. The botox reduced inflammation and tissue damage. Plus they looked *fabulous*.



(Host pulls back their face in an expression-less, botox-like fashion)

“I’m so happy to be alive. I’m crying. Can’t you tell?”

In all seriousness, these findings are huge and could really help the hundreds of thousands of deaths each year due to snakebites. If you see a venomous snake in your home, back away slowly and call Kris Jenner.



Moving on...

[Scientists](#) studying the Ice Age were able to analyze the stomach contents of a 14,000 year old mummified wolf. And in a discovery that’s not surprising to dog owners, it was another wolf’s poop.

The Natural History Museum announced a new dinosaur recently with claws, fangs, and a spike on its head. They are calling it [Spinosaurus mirabilis](#) because apparently “murder unicorn” was taken:



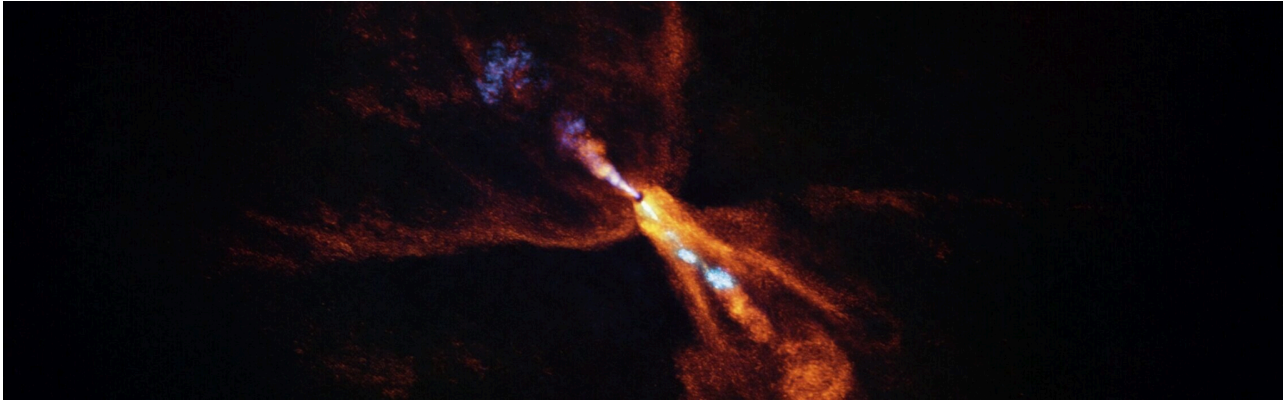
Continuing with dinosaur news, [scientists](#) have finally settled the debate over whether a dinosaur skeleton was just a teenage T. rex or a whole new species. According to the scientists it's a new species. And according to the dinosaur: "See? It's not just a phase, mom."



## What's Up with Space

And finally we move on to our astronomy stories in 'What's Up with Space?'

For the first time ever, an International [cohort](#) of researchers used the ALMA and James Webb Space Telescope to photograph the earliest stage of a solar system being conceived. This is the picture:



Oh my... (Host gets hot around the collar) Well, my word. (to someone off camera) can we show this on PBS? They're not gonna- (pic changes to a censored version):



Oh come on, they'd let the Spacetime guy show it!

Astronomers report the "[strongest evidence yet](#)" for life beyond our solar system, after the James Webb Space Telescope detected chemical signatures that, on Earth, only come from life. So what are these signatures? Well one is methane. Proving that he who smelt it... may have small but real potentially convincing evidence that lifeforms have dealt it.

Scientists are excited but cautious about these signatures of life. As to whether this planet has *intelligent* life, well we still have to prove that here on Earth:



[NASA](#) just launched a probe that will orbit the sun. Although technically it was already doing that before takeoff.

Possible tag: (Direct to Camera 2) This joke has been underwritten by the “Um Actually” Foundation. Providing insignificant corrections since 2026.”



In a category, I did not know existed: [Astronomers](#) have found the most lemon-shaped planet ever. And they have named it... Lemon Planet. Very original guys. But it's a big improvement from its official name: PSR J2322-2650b. Although given the fact that its atmosphere is made of helium, perhaps it should be called (sucks from a balloon, in an artificially high voice): Lemon Planet.

[Astronomers](#) have announced the discovery of a new kind of cosmic object, It's an almost-galaxy that has thrived despite never developing any stars. So far, the scientists are calling it “This Week on Earth” HEY- [Host looks mad and off screen to writer, we cut them off abruptly]