

It's Definitely So!



Keith Tyner

I learned the importance of listening in my 20s. Listening includes more than incorporating the idea being communicated, but also the breadth of the conversation.

Listening is an active process and leads to greater possibilities.

When I consider the ancient writing that says “blessed are the peacemakers”, it causes me to believe the peacemakers are great listeners. The peculiarities of the English language become more obvious with improved listening efforts.

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or general. A definite article is **the**, while indefinite articles are **a** and **an**.

James Carville scribbled “it’s the economy, stupid” on President Clinton’s campaign whiteboard in 1992. His goal was to define the economy as the key point of the election.

It is common for new presidents to focus on domestic policy including the economy early in their tenure. The theory is they have the first two years to tinker with economic matters with the hope that the downside risk of their policies recovers by the fourth year allowing a strong economy as the election cycle fires back up.

Here are historic examples of this process:

- August 10, 1993, President Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act.

Typically, the use of a definite article is more aggressive than an indefinite one. For example, if I said to one of my kids “the problem with your way of thinking is you are immature,” do you suppose they would be receptive to my thoughts? What if I reworded the point to sound something like this, “A problem with thinking that way is you might discover it is a broader topic than you sense today.”

A theory of mine is the implementation of 24-hour news and social media increased the use of definite articles and aggressive communications in our culture. The news isn’t significant enough in a day to constantly report it, so it requires combative interpretations of events. Often the conversations are opinions, and the topics are unknowable and

It’s the Economy!

- June 7, 2001, President Bush signed the Tax Relief Reconciliation Act.
- February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- December 20, 2017, President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act.

Tinkering with the economy or other domestic policies is a response to the promises they made while they were on the campaign trail.

yet the definite voice is used with great confidence.

Notice the article in British philosopher Bertrand Russell’s quote. “**The** problem with the world is the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt.” I am pretty sure it is not the problem, but it can be a problem. And I am sure the more I know, the more I know how much I don’t know.,

Unfortunately, aggressive conversations can bring disharmony in family dynamics and create lasting challenges. Those who are willing to listen and integrate more peaceful conversations and redirect from divisive ones will find themselves in that blessed fraternity of peacemakers. Maybe you can join that group today!

Theoretically, there is no need to tinker during the president’s second term since their initial efforts led to their re-election.

As we begin a season with a new president, there will be new domestic policies. Grover Cleveland is the only other president to have served a term, lost an election and then served a non-consecutive term. Logic suggests President Trump will do as Cleveland did, continue executing more of the same strategies as before.

Simultaneously, Americans are most concerned with their cost of living, viability of Medicare & Social Security, whether artificial intelligence will put their job at risk and whether they can afford healthcare insurance moving forward.

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Oh, That's How that Works!

Brian and Aaron both own shares of Acme Corporation, the one in the Road Runner cartoons. Brian and Aaron's motives are not the same. One wants to buy more shares and the other wants to sell shares. For simplicity, let's pick 100 shares. Bill, Bob and Bubba want more shares and Andrew, Arick and Alex want to sell more shares.

As four Bs are trying to buy shares, the four As want to sell shares. The markets handle the influx of activity by allowing the highest price a buyer is willing to pay set one bookend on the pricing and the lowest price a seller is willing to let go of their shares be the other bookend. Suppose Brian is the highest buy price at \$10.00 and Aaron is the lowest seller at \$10.25 That is the situation of the market price on Acme Corporation.

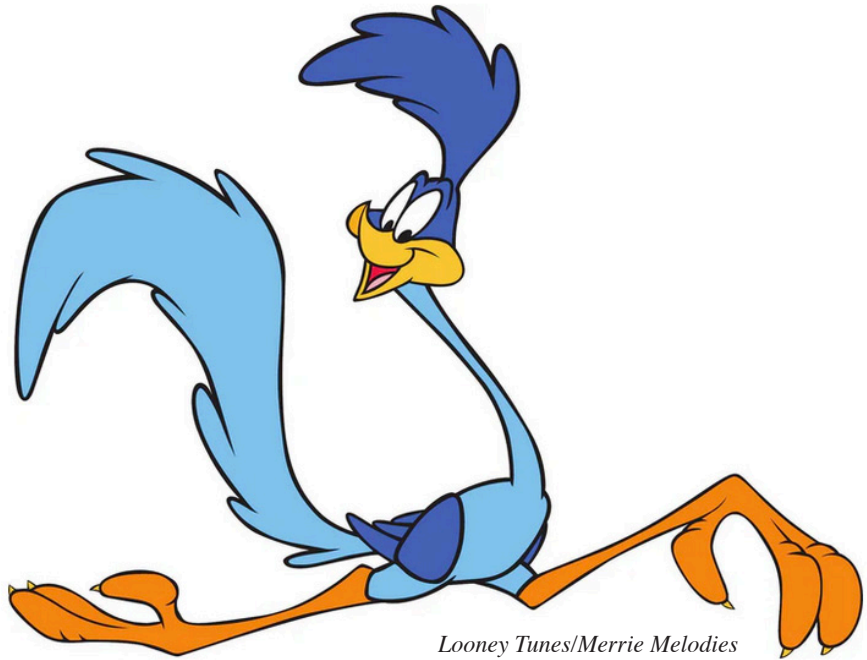
As those two are the bookends that remain, no transactions will take place. A compromise must happen for a transaction to occur. Suppose Bill decides he is willing to pay more for shares than he originally thought

It's the Economy!

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We remain optimistic that the entrepreneurial spirit of Americans will drive growth and hope for the future. We believe fewer regulations will offer young entrepreneurs more opportunities for creating businesses and encourage long term economic growth.

The subtle shifts of each administration has consistently stirred my emotions over the decades. But their policies have had little impact on my lifestyle in the short-term. The cumulative, compounding impact of government spending is inflationary and most punitive on the young and old. It is my hope that federal, state and local governments will spend less and the citizens will have more money to operate their households.



Looney Tunes/Merrie Melodies

and raises his price to \$10.15, then the new bookends are \$10.15 and \$10.25. The difference between the buyer's offer and the seller's price is referred to as the **spread**.

Even with Bill's new offer and Aaron's asking price, there is still no transaction. A transaction happens with a compromise that makes the highest bidding price equal to the lowest asking price. That event happens in a moment and the 100 shares of stock change hands and that is what is declared as the market price.

A transaction may occur if either Brian or Aaron decide to place an order at the **market**. The seller's market price is \$10.15 in this example and the buyer's market price is \$10.25.

Once Aaron and Brian executed their order, then the prices Arick and Alex are willing to sell their shares for will be the new price a buyer will have to pay for shares at the current price.

This process goes on all day long while the markets are open. The buyers, Brian, Bill, Bob and Bubba are referred to as the "bid" price and the sellers, Aaron, Andrew, Alex and

Arick are called the "ask" price. The highest bid price and the lowest ask price will be the range one has to consider whenever they consider the price Acme shares are trading at any given moment.

The more frequent shares of a given company trade, the smaller the spread will be. The spread can significantly impact market performance on less liquid companies.



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Our Mailing Address:
Gimbal Financial
620 N. Rangeline Road
Carmel, Indiana 46032



Our Telephone Number:
(317) 578-1600

Keith Tyner	317-863-3811
Doug Shrieve	317-863-3815
Amanda Hineman	317-863-3808
Phil Byers	317-863-3810
Libbi Ritz	317-836-0013
Caleb Tyner	317-342-4232

Our Website:
www.gimbalfinancial.com

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