

First draft and notes on
"Is there Independence?"
or
"Readings on Walden by Henry
David Thoreau"

2014

by
Frida Robles

How do you start a narration about independence? That is the question that I am posing myself at the moment, but of course that is not the important question, the important question is why is it that I feel so alone wherever I go? It doesn't where or with whom I am I always end up feeling lonely, that is the main reason why I have to ask myself if I can at least glimpse what it is to be whole, to be all-one as the budhists say. To be by yorself together with the "whole". Would that mean to be independent? to tresspass your own limits? I wonder if then you stop being independent and rather you finish within an utter dependence towards existence, a positive and grateful dependency. But I always feel ridiculous talking in these terms, I don't like terms like such as beneficiary and greatness, they are too religious, too pretentcious, too fake. But then can I answer the question about dependency without seeeming XVth Century? or rather XIX Century, the century with which I have the biggest problem with?

Let me recommence, I feel anxious and sad out of loneliness and for that reason I conclude that I have a dependant attitude towards other people. Ok, I am not being honest enough, I need to cnfess it at some point and they say "better now than latter". Ok, I have an ultimate dependency with my mother, it is difficult for me to go a day without talking to her, it is through long talks with her that I find reason or rather it is how I came up to understand the world. My mother and I created a world of our own. Everyone else is excluded. My father is always jealous, always distant, never participant. But, he never wanted a family in the first place, he always rejected us, calling us crazy, imagining a life without us. I suppose we ended up with this cocoon world my mother and I, it was our self-defense strategy, A really bad one of course but a strategy nonetheless. I cannot blame it all on my father, my mother has a big stake in the matter. I know what you will tell me.: it is you the responsi b and yes, bottom line, the one responsible for my dependency issues is me. I am theonly one who can work on them. Here I am, trying to work on t em. In-dependency, we are all in-dependence. No man can live alone, can he? It is not the lack of people that I am after but the emptiness, of anxiety. Emp-ty. E-M-P-T-Y!

Statistical Analysis on "Walden"
On Self or Number of Is

Page population: 322

Total number of Is: 1,749

Minimum number registered: 0

Maximum number registered: 23

Average: 5.2680

Median: 875.5

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 5 1

"In most books, the I, or
 or first person, is omitted;
 in this it will be retained;
 that, in respect to egotism,
 is the main difference. We
 commonly do not remember that
 it is, after all, always the
 first person that is speaking.
 I should not talk so much ab-
 out myself if there were any
 body (sic) whom I knew as
 well." p.2

Repetition rate	Number of pages	Cumulative number
0 - 5	168	168
6 - 10	104	272
11 - 15	43	315
16 - 20	6	321
21 - 25	1	322

Repetition rate	Percentage
0 - 5	51.24%
6 - 10	32.29%
11 - 15	13.35%
16 - 20	1.86%
21 - 25	0.31%

Variancy

Mode

Frecuency rate

CONCLUSIONS

(*thus glabra*.) grew luxuriantly about the house, pushing up through the embankment which I had made, and growing five or six feet the first season. Its broad pinnate tropical leaf was pleasant though strange to look on. The large buds, suddenly pushing out late in the spring from dry sticks which had seemed to be dead, developed themselves as by magic into graceful green-and tender boughs, an inch in diameter; and sometimes, as I sat at my window, so heedlessly did they grow and tax their weak joints I heard a fresh and tender bough suddenly fall like a fan to the ground, when there was not a breath of air stirring, broken off by its own weight. In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue and by their weight again bent down and broke the tender limbs.

As I sit at my window this summer afternoon, hawks are circling about my clearing; the rantivy of wild pigeons, flying by twos and threes athwart my view, or perching restless on the white-pine boughs behind my house, gives a voice to the air; a fishhawk dimples the glassy surface of the pond and brings up a fish; a mink steals out of the marsh before my door and seizes a frog by the shore; the sedge is bending under the weight of the reed-birds flitting hither and thither; and for the last half hour I have heard the rattle of railroad cars, now dying away and then reviving like the beat of a partridge, conveying travellers from Boston to the country. For I did not live so out of the world as that boy, who, as I hear, was put out to a farmer in the east part of the town, but ere long ran away and came home again, quite down at the heel and homesick. He had never seen such a dull and out-of-the-way place; the folks were all gone off; why, you couldn't even hear the whistle! I doubt if there is such a place in Massachusetts now:—

*"In truth, our village has become a butt
For one of those fleet railroad shafts, and o'er
Our peaceful plain its soothing sound is—Concord."**

The Fitchburg Railroad touches the pond about a hundred rods south of where I dwell. I usually go to the village along its causeway, and am, as it were, related to society by this link. The men on the freight trains, who go over the whole length of the road, bow to me as to an old acquaintance, they pass me so often, and apparently they take me for an employee; and so I am. I too would fain be a track-repairer somewhere in the orbit of the earth.

The whistle of the locomotive† penetrates my woods summer and winter, sounding like the scream of a hawk sailing over some farmer's yard, informing me that many restless city merchants are arriving within the circle of the town, or adventurous country traders from the other side. As they come under one horizon, they shout their warning to get off the track to the other, heard sometimes through the circles of two towns. Here come your groceries, country; your rations, countrymen! Nor is there any man so independent on his farm that he can say them nay. And here's your pay for them! screams the countryman's whistle; timber like long battering rams going twenty miles an hour against the city's walls, and chairs enough to seat all the weary and heavy laden that dwell within them. With such huge and lumbering civility the country hands a chair to the city. All the Indian huckleberry hills are stripped, all the cranberry meadows are raked into

* From William Ellery Channing, "Walden Spring," *The Woodman and Other Poems* (Boston, 1849).

† It is a sign of how much times have changed that the railroad whistle now sounds like a quaint echo of the past—like the choruses of a country-western song. And that now most environmentalists, far from loathing the railroad for its intrusiveness, would welcome its return.

PENGUIN CLASSICS

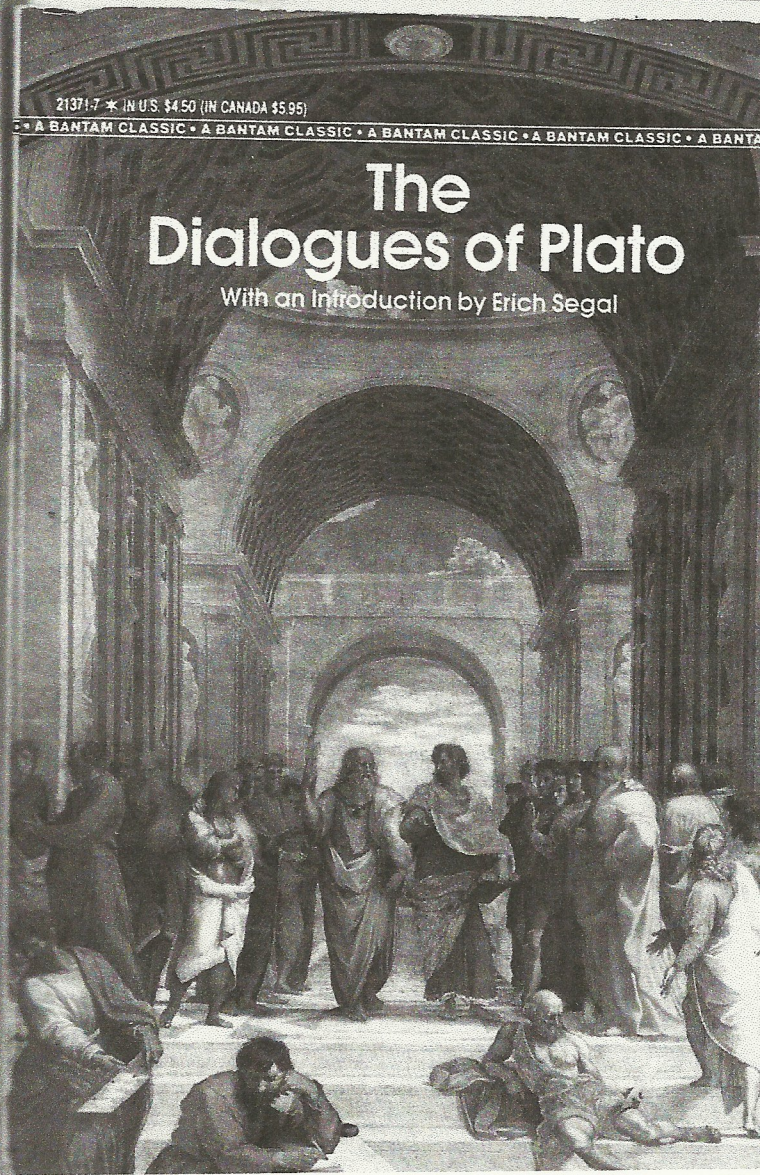


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ETHICS



Note

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Boards.....	§8.03
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One thousand old brick.....	§4.00
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Hair.....	§0.31
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Nails.....	§3.90
Hinges and screws.....	§0.14
Latch.....	§0.10
Chalk.....	§0.01
Transportation.....	§1.40

In all.....§28.12

Document No.2

Henry David Thoreau's exact
price of his house.

Hole on the investigation



Henry David Thoreau's Formula of
Independence

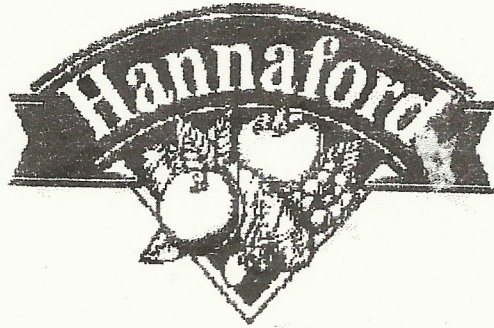
- 1) Build your own house.
- 2) Wake up early
- 3) Listen to the movements of the clouds.
- 4) Allow yourself to be wild.
- 5) Allow yourself to be pure.
- 6) Be yourself, not what others tell you or expect you to be.
- 7) Don't spend too much time talking.
- 8) Read philosophy, but read it carefully.
- 9) Hunt when you are young, then stop.
- 10) Have but three chairs in your house.
- 11) Own the least amount of furniture possible.
- 12) Work only when you need to.
- 13) Don't waste time in stupidity.
- 14) Live without commitments external to yourself.
- 15) Trust life.
- 16) Buy as little clothes as possible.
- 17) Don't allow yourself to be misled.
- 18) Accept the seasons (winter, spring) as your friends.
- 19) Get lost in the woods at least once in your life.

I started reading Thoreau as an admiring act. An act that every student participates of whenever they intuit a teacher to have entered their lives. There he stood, standing still, upright, defiant. That is how I could understand a man that had decided to part from society to face life, as he says. I think I have not lived life and I am afraid of doing so.

Document No.187

Unreadable notes. Unidentified author. No date.

Not helping the purpose of this investigation.



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Dialogue between Henry David Thoreau
Socrates and Don Juan*

Curious document.

Requires validation.

Publishing date: 2014?

They, being commonly out of doors, heard whatever was in the wind.

Don Juan: You always felt compelled to explain your acts, as if it were I who's wrong.

Henry David Thoreau: I never dreamed of any enormity greater than I have committed. I never knew, and never shall know, a worse man than myself.

Socrates: But it is right, my friends, to bear in mind that if the soul is immortal, we need to care for it, not only for the sake of this periodic time which belongs to what we call life, but also for the sake of all time, and now it will be clear that if we are going to neglect it, we shall be running a great risk.

Don Juan paused in search of a word, he seemed to be dumbfounded. Then he looked at them and began to laugh uproariously.

Socrates: But if you are convinced of this, Don Juan, look at the matter in this way, and see if you agree. You doubt whether what is called learning can be recollection?

Henry David Thoreau: Fishermen, hunters, woodchoppers, and others, spending their lives in the fields and woods; in a peculiar sense a part of Nature themselves, are often in a more favorable mood for observing her, than philosophers or poets even, who approach her with expectation.

Don Juan said that they were going to camp there, that it was a very safe place because it was too shallow to be a den for lions, too open to be a nest for rats, and too windy for insects. He laughed and said that it was an ideal place for men, since no other living creatures could stand it.

Henry David Thoreau: The farmer is endeavoring to solve the problem at a livelihood by a formula more complicated than the problem itself.

Socrates: Then, let us see whether what you say is true from another point of view, for very likely you may be right, you affirm virtue to be the power of attaining goods?

Don Juan: Well, let's say that I know all kinds of things because I don't have a personal history, and because I don't feel more important than anything else, and because my death is sitting with me right here.

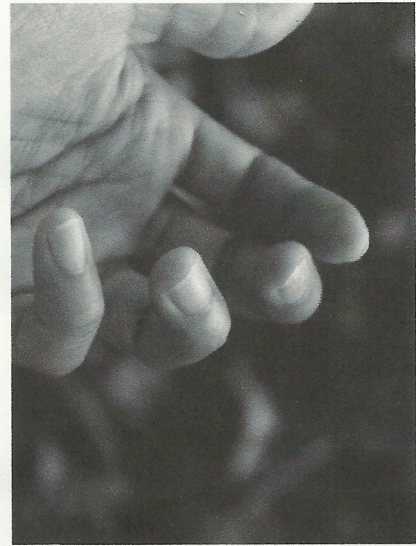
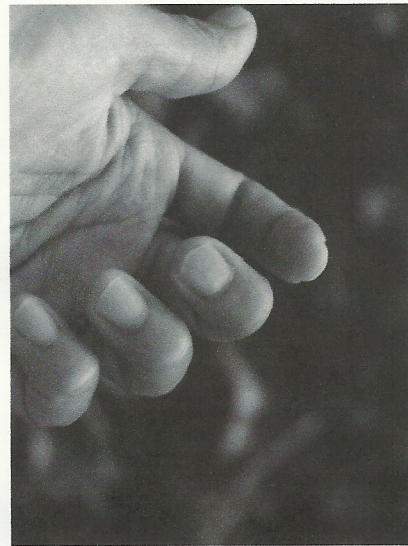
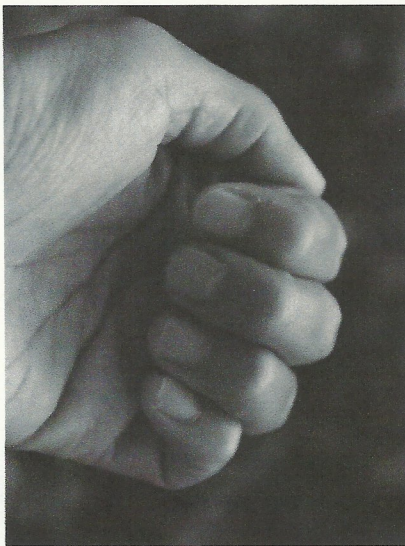
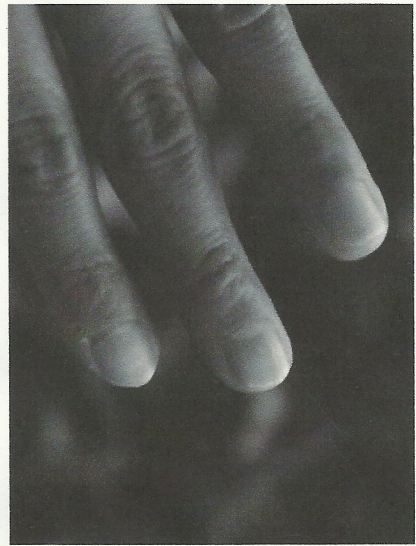
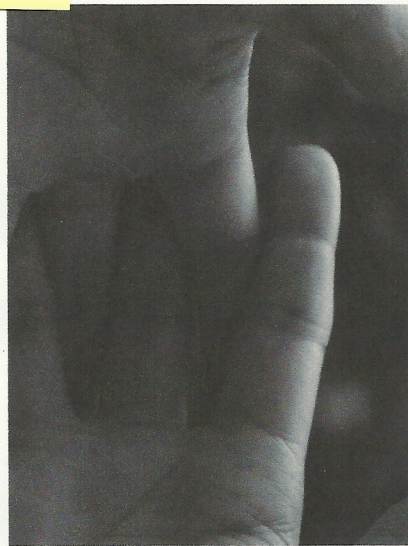
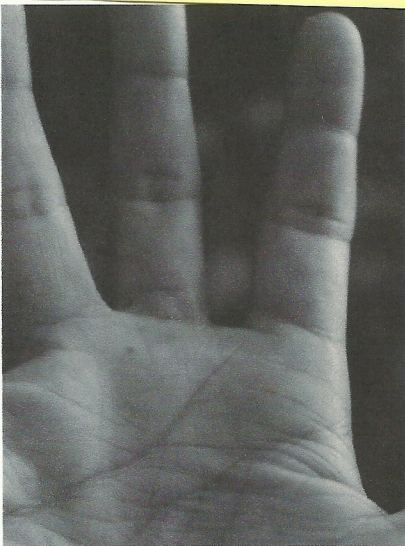
Henry David Thoreau: I see youngmen, my townsmen, whose misfortune it is to have inherited farms, houses, barns, cattle, and farming tools, for these are more easily acquired than got rid of. Men labor under a mistake.

Socrates: We are agreed then, that in this way the living have been born from the death no less than the dead have been 'born' from the living?

Henry David Thoreau walked and sat down in the shade – An old man who used to frequent this pond nearly sixty years ago, when it was dark with surrounding forests, tells me that in those days he sometimes saw it all alive with ducks and other water fowl, and that there were many eagles about it.

The hands of the observer.

"(...) to survey the world through a telescope or microscope, and never with his natural eye; (...) to discover new satellites to Neptune, and not detect the motes in his eyes, or to what vagabond he is a satellite himself (...)" p.47



NEW YORK.
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
POPULATION AND ATTENDANCE.				
Youth, 5 to 21 years of age.....	1,583,064	1,585,601	2,537	.....
Enrolled in public schools.....	1,059,238	1,067,199	7,961	.....
Average daily attendance.....	531,835	541,610	9,775	.....
SCHOOLS.				
Average duration of school in days.....	176	176	.....	.....
Value of school property.....	\$29,928,626	\$31,017,904	\$1,089,278	.....
Number of school-houses.....	11,788	11,824	36	.....
TEACHERS.				
Men employed in teaching.....	7,428	7,687	259	.....
Women employed in teaching.....	22,555	22,532	.....	.....
Total.....	30,013	30,209	196	.....
Necessary to supply the schools.....				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.				
<i>Receipts.</i>				
State tax.....	\$2,711,635	\$2,797,275	\$85,640	.....
Local tax.....	8,124,128	7,697,038	.....	.....
Interest on permanent funds.....	170,000	170,000	.....	.....
Revenue from other funds.....	165,000	165,000	.....	.....
Other sources.....	430,493	530,850	100,357	.....
Total.....	11,601,256	11,360,161	.....	.....
<i>Expenditures.</i>				
Sites, buildings, and furniture.....	1,927,467	1,780,143	.....	147,324
Libraries and apparatus.....	254,460	221,240	.....	33,220
Salaries of teachers.....	7,849,667	7,965,804	116,137	.....
Salaries of superintendents.....	.....	120,382	.....	.....
Miscellaneous or contingent.....	1,569,662	1,471,739	.....	97,923
Total.....	11,601,256	11,559,288	.....	41,968
SCHOOL FUND.				
Available school fund.....	3,080,108	3,106,107	24,999	.....
Permanent school fund.....	3,080,108	3,106,107	24,999	.....
Increase in school year.....	25,336	21,999	.....	.....
EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA.—				
Of school population.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of pupils enrolled.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of average attendance.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

(Special returns to United States Bureau of Education for 1875 and 1876, from Hon. Nath. Williamson, superintendent of public instruction, and these reports, 1876-76.)

Report of the Commission
of Education, 1876
New York education costs.
On self-education?

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE STATE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

..... in operation, with 59,660 children taught in them.
..... of 1795 expired by its own limitation in 1800, and although successive gov-
..... on the Legislature a new provision for the support of common schools,
..... for them by the State and for the State except the authorizing in
..... of a series of "literature lotteries," meant to raise \$100,000, and the appropria-
..... April 2, 1805, of the net proceeds of 500,000 acres of State lands to the forma-
..... of a school fund. This act laid the foundation of the present fund for common schools,
..... which by its terms was to be invested and accumulate till the interest should amount
..... to \$200,000, when an annual distribution of that amount was to be made among the
..... school districts of the State. Only a week later an act was passed to organize a free
..... school society for the city of New York, but this was local as well as limited in aim,
..... and only touched a border point of the whole State.

THE FIRST CONTINUOUS SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The hopes and efforts of the friends of common schools found their accomplishment
..... when on February 17, 1812, a committee appointed in the preceding year reported to
..... the Legislature a bill which passed that body and secured the approval of the governor.
..... The bill embodied features not differing greatly from those of the law of 1795. Its
..... main features were as follows: that the several towns of the State be divided into school
..... districts by three commissioners, elected by the citizens qualified to vote for town offi-
..... cers; that three trustees be elected in each district, to have the care and superintend-
..... ence of the schools to be established in it; that the interest of the school fund be
..... divided among the different counties and towns according to their respective popula-
..... tions as ascertained by the United States census; that the proportion received by the
..... respective towns be subdivided among the school districts according to the number of
..... children in each, between the ages of 5 and 15 years, inclusive; that each town raise
..... by tax, annually, an amount of money as it receives from the school fund; that the gross
..... amount of money received from the State and raised by towns be appropriated exclu-
..... sively to the payment of the wages of teachers; and that the whole system be placed
..... under the superintendence of an officer to be appointed by the council of appointment,
..... who should be distributed by the State under this system was about the same as
..... had been established by the preceding law, but that to be raised by the people to meet
..... the same ends, which it had been before. Essentially the same officers, with essen-
..... tially the same duties, were retained. A bond was given to the system, which it had
..... not before. Provisions for examination of teachers and for violation of the regula-
..... tions were inserted in the council of appointment, and authority was given the school
..... trustees to make by appeal to a jury sufficient to purchase a lot for the school, to
..... build the school house, and to keep it in repair.
..... The generally wise provisions of this system, and the appointment of an intelligent
..... and successful lawyer of Albany, Mr. Gibson Hawley, to the headship of it, insured

Dialogue with myself

(Morning, in front of a cup of tea. There are
It is breakfast time)

One: I woke up this morning thinking about the
their parsimony, their total surrender.

Two: You always talk about things that should
breakfast. Why don't you relax and enjoy your

One: But if I don't dwell onto this matters I
how I am when I'm bored, you don't want to see

Two: When will you learn to sit still and talk
the other xdo? I think you will never, so let
you wanted to say about the buddhist monks?

One: Well, I wonder if I could ever be one. What if I have
children? What would happen then? Would I just abandon them and go
to the monastery?

Two: But who is telling you that you should be a buddhist monk?

One: It seems like the only logical thing to do. If we came to this
world and we are always suffering because we cannot find peace in
our minds, then what else should I be? Should I just pretend that
I don't know anything about zen?

Two: But you don't really know anything about zen.

One: You are right but don't you agree that that is the only true
way?

Two: I disagree, what about sex and other people? what about orgasms
and dance? what about understanding another person? what about being
adventurous? What about going to the dessert? I know that those ideas
won't abandon you, you are not patient enough. You cannot be a frwakin
monk. Period.

One: And you said that you wanted a relaxed morning? Why don't you
just let me dream about nirvana and that shit?

Two: Ok, let's dream about nirvana. What do you imagine Nirvana to
be like then?

One: I imagine Nirvana to be light, every time I think about that
the only conclusion that I can come up with is light. I know that
it is too simple but I cannot go deeper. Do you think there is another
way of imagining Nirvana?

Two! You were the one wanting to talk about purity and meditation today
don't ask for me to give you the answers I-~~can~~ you cannot get on y
your own.

(Silence) Both of them drink coffee staring in front of them.

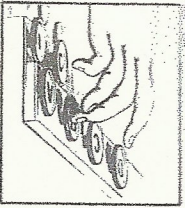
Two: Do you think that I will ever have sex again?

One: I think you will, I don't really know how, everytime that I think
it will never happen again something ends up happening. So it- I
think you will have sex again.

Two: I hope so. Many times I think that I will be alone all the time
and I love to wake up with someone next to me in the morning, it gives
me hope.

One: Of course it gives you hope, for a while you are all excited
about how great the other person is, you are always thinking of what
is happening in his mind, in his smell, if he will call you again,
then, there are two possible situations, he either does or he doesn't
In both cases you end up unsatisfied. If he doesn't call you are
sad because you are sure that he was the best man alive and that
you were just too stupid to let him go. If he calls back and you

Document: n. a piece of written, printed, or electronic matter that provides information or evidence or that serves as an official record.



TURNING TO BUSINESS AND FINANCE Interest on the Interest

Each of us should have some sort of plan for financial security for our future. This can include everything from gum ball banks to savings accounts, annuities, or even property and equipment for investments. Getting into various plans and understanding them can be a rather complex process at first glance. Some business math situations can seem to be an unreal maze of formulas involving long periods of interest, numbers raised to the 200th power and so on. Your calculator, however, can help make the math involved much more "doable" and understandable. Solving some of these problems can be almost impossible by conventional methods of logarithms and compound interest tables, etc. However, your calculator enables solutions that are striking examples of its outstanding labor-saving capabilities.

For example, consider regular deposits into an interest-bearing account, like a savings account. If you deposit \$180 each month into an account that pays 6% annually, how much money would you have in 10 years?

Well, at first this doesn't seem too bad. You could just multiply the number of months in ten years by \$180. But what about the interest? Then, after the first year,

interest and so on. . . To get the years, all this may be figured by

where

ount

ar payment

osit period (in this case $\frac{6\%}{12}$ or

osit periods (here $n = 12 \times 10$ or

Note

How to earn money from savings.

Economical independence?

This formula can be worked using this set of keystrokes:
 Pint 1 + i % n = 1

Press

Display/Comments

180 1 + .5 % 120 =

1.8193967 (Note: Pause for calculation to complete.)

1 ÷ .5 % =

29498.28 total accrued amount in 10 years.

How much would accrue after 2 years? The only thing changed is n. For 2 years $n = 12 \times 2$ or 24.

Press

Display/Comments

180 1 + .5 % 24 =

1.1271598 Pause for calculation to complete.

1 ÷ .5 % =

4577.7516



WALK UP, POOR FOLK!

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EASY AND NOVEL WAYS

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Glossary on Independence or
How to Read your Life

Self: n. a person's essential being that distinguishes them from others. A person's particular nature or personality; the qualities that make a person individual or unique. Own interests or pleasure.

Independent: adj. free from outside control; not depending on others authority. Self-governing. Not supported by public funds. Not influenced or affected by others. Capable of thinking or acting for oneself. Making it unnecessary to earn one's living.

Control: n. the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events. The base from which a system or activity is directed. The power to restrain something, esp. one's own emotions or actions.

Outside: n. the external side or surface of something. The external appearance of someone or something. The area beyond the perimeter of the defense. Beyond one's own immediate personal concerns. Situated beyond the boundaries.

Unique: adj. being the only one of its kind: unlike anything else. Particularly remarkable, special or unusual.

Authority: n. the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. Official permission; sanction. A person or organization having power or control in a particular, typically political or administrative, sphere. A book or other source able to supply reliable information or evidence.

Other: adj. & pron. used to refer to a person or thing that is different or distinct from one already mentioned or known about. The alternative of two. Further; additional.

Affection: n. the act or process of affecting or being affected. A mental state; an emotion.

Need: v. require (something) because it is essential or very important.

Capable: adj. having the ability, fitness, or quality necessary to do or achieve a specified thing.

Power: n. the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events. A supernatural being, deity or force.

Direction: n. the course that must be taken in order to reach a destination. A general way in which someone or something is developing. General aim or purpose. An authoritative order or command.

Boundary: n. a limit of a subject or sphere of activity.