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LONELY PLANET'S

INSTANT EXPERT

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**A Visual Guide to the Skills
You've Always Wanted**

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Introduction

This book is named after **twin bees**:

Instant Bee and **Expert Bee**.



Instant Bee skims the surface of a subject, flitting from one to another, taking just enough to satisfy itself.

Instant Bee takes the stuff back to the hive where Expert Bee turns it (we hope) into a delicious spread.



(And who knows, you might learn something here that will be useful when travelling. It might even lead you to an interesting and adventurous new life!)



Maori
cook



Parasitologist



Weather
guru



Casanova




Mountain
guide



Origamist

Both bees are important to the project, even though you might think that Instant Bee is a shallow dilettante, especially compared to hard-working Expert Bee. (In truth, Instant Bee thinks that Expert Bee is a bit of a pedant.)

Indeed, the twin bees realize that they need each other: the value of what they do is what they do **together**.  And together they produce just the thing for a lively dinner party conversation. It's not really "How to be an origamist, or a caber tosser" but rather "How to chat about being an origamist" (or a caber tosser). You know, fun, without going on too long about it.

Caber tosser? What's that?



Just read
the book!



Now the bees do know the difference between real-life experts and instant experts. Almost all the jobs, professions and careers here usually take tons of time, energy, training and experience to get to “expert” status.

I mean, how could a book like this pretend to make you, dear reader, an expert in sailing, or emergency dentistry, or beekeeping, in the space of a few pages?

Perhaps a few of you will become Jacks or Jills of all trades (even if you are masters of none). Thank goodness for “instant”—it takes a lot of the burden away from “expert”.

Like inseparable twins—always together, nothing without each other—the bees ask the old question: are there two bees, or not two bees?



With apologies to William Shakesbee.





PRACTICAL TRAVELLER

- 10** Bouncer
- 12** Launderer
- 16** Weather guru
- 18** Motorcyclist
- 22** Concierge
- 24** Bike mechanic
- 28** Flight attendant
- 30** Sailor
- 36** Swimmer
- 38** Lifeguard



Bouncer

Ahem, **Crowd-controller** or **Security Guard** is the preferred term, sir. Bouncers have had a bad rep but the job is more professional now and depends more on “dispute resolution” than being a bully.

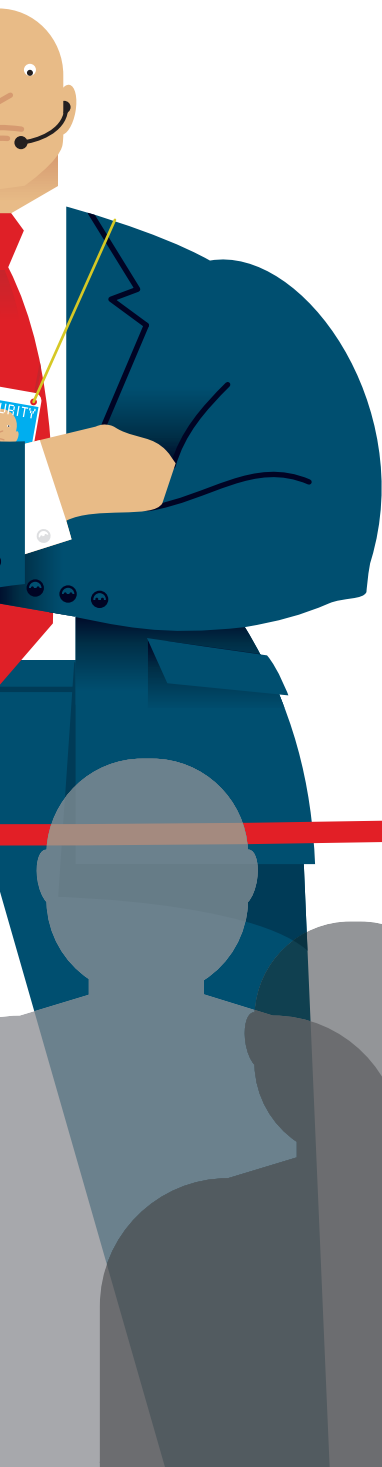
Wearing a dark suit and tie suggests authority—you aren't one of the guys trying to get in.

Basically it's **two** jobs:

1 Keeping order **OUTSIDE** (deciding who gets in)

- Control the entrance using the red rope. **This is your domain.** The red rope keeps the queue from becoming a crush.
- **Treat everyone as you would like to be treated.** Be polite and flattering at the start of a night and it'll pay off if you have to diffuse tensions later.
- To refuse entry, cite the **dress code** or say it's a **private party**.
- **Don't accept tips or handshakes.**
- Be wary of overly friendly people.
- Watch out for deliberate distractions.
- **Check IDs.** If you think someone is underage or using a fake ID, ask them their birthdate and zodiac sign.
- **Don't let insults aggravate you**—practise by getting a friend to insult you. Be aware of your body language.





2 Keeping order **INSIDE** (deciding who gets thrown out)

- **Expect the unexpected.**
- Looking out for drunken people is a big part of the job.
- **Take it outside.**
- The essence of being a good bouncer is to **handle difficult situations without resorting to violence.**
- So ... be nice until it's time to be not nice.
- Point out surveillance cameras, and win over the drunken person's friends.
- **Talk first** before throwing anyone out. Redirect their attention. If there are other bouncers working, get them to help and **approach troublemakers in a triangle formation.**
- **Never show fear.** Look your aggressor in the eyes.
- Have the **police on speed dial.**



Laundrerer

Ever wondered what the tiny symbols on those annoying tags on your clothes really mean? As a laundrerer, you'd better find out! (and, if you are doing laundry for someone else, just pray they haven't snipped the tags off.)

machine washing



cold



warm



hot



permanent
press



gentle
cycle



hand
wash



do not
wash

machine drying



no
heat



low
heat



medium
heat



high
heat



permanent
press

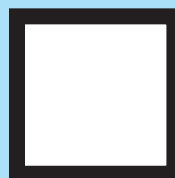


gentle
cycle



do not
machine dry

drying



line
dry



drip
dry



dry
flat



dry in
the shade



do not
dry

bleaching



any
bleach



only
non-chlorine
bleach



do not
bleach

ironing



steam
or dry,
low
heat



steam
or dry,
medium
heat



steam
or dry,
high
heat

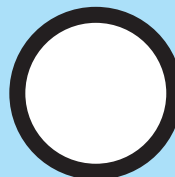


do not
iron with
steam



do not
iron

dry cleaning



any
solvent



any
solvent
except
trichloro-
ethylene



do not
dry clean

and ...

- a little **nail polish remover** gets rid of lipstick stains
- **white chalk** removes grease stains
- use **peanut butter** to remove scuff marks from sneakers
- put **meat tenderizer** (enzymes such as bromelain, which can be bought in grocery shops) on sweaty armpit stains before washing
- finally, if you need to do this, **coffee grounds** remove vomit (and the smell)

Next: Dry cleaning →

Dry cleaning: because you can't launder everything

Watch for those little symbols! **A** **P** 



What happens at the cleaners

1 SPOTTING

Depending on what marks are on your clothes, specialised **spotting agents** are applied by hand. They remove or loosen the stains.



2 WASHING

Your clothes do get wet, but with **solvents**, not water. The solvent most commonly used in dry cleaning is known as **perc***. It acts on clothes in a similar manner to mineral spirits cleaning a paint brush.

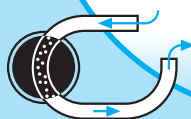
wet cycle
12 minutes



Since solvents are considered hazardous wastes, they cannot be dumped down the drain after use.

Instead, they must be **recycled** through filtration or distillation.

That dry-cleaning smell can mean that the perc isn't being recycled as thoroughly as it should be.



*Perc is the common name for perchloroethylene (tetrachloroethylene).

3 DRYING

This is done in the same machine as the wash.



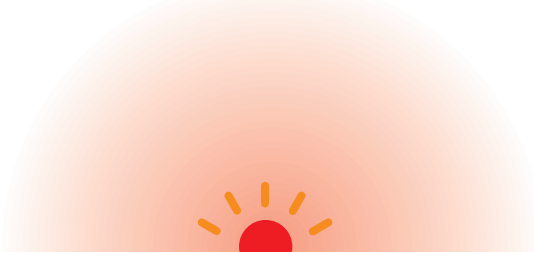
dry cycle
35 minutes





Weather guru

Weather sayings are often based on local observations, not science, so they may not apply in different parts of the world. Nevertheless we repeat them endlessly. So here are some that seem to be fairly accurate weather forecasters.



“Red sky in the morning, shepherds’ warning; red sky at night, shepherds’ delight.*”

But *why*? The explanation is a bit complicated. Here goes:

Storm systems basically move from west to east. **A red sky in the morning** implies that the rising sun is shining on clouds to the west, and conditions to the east are clear. Clouds moving in from the west mean a weather system is approaching. **Be warned!**

A red sky in the evening implies that the setting sun is shining on clouds in the east, which are moving away—further east. That means better weather. **Be delighted!**

“When the glass falls low, prepare for a blow. When it rises high, let all your kites fly.”

The “glass” refers to the mercury in a glass barometer. When barometric pressure falls, a low pressure weather system is developing or moving nearer. **Wind, clouds and storms are associated with low pressure.**

Conversely **rising pressure means the weather is clearing.** “Let all your kites fly” really means it’s going to be a nice day to go outside to play, not that it’ll be especially windy.

“A year of snow, a year of plenty.”

Continuous snow cover

on orchards and farms delays the blossoming of fruit trees until frosty days and nights are over. It also prevents freezing and thawing cycles that can destroy wheat and other crops.



*Some say sailors instead of shepherds.