

Boomerang

A boomerang is shaped a little like a banana, curved at the ends, not quite U-shaped, and rather flat. There are returning and non-returning types; and, although no one can truthfully answer where boomerangs came from, it is likely that they were invented accidentally.

Picture a sunny afternoon in the Outback, an Aboriginal woman pitching her boomerang expecting to see a straight flight pattern. ***Klunk, bonk!*** The curved stick sails out of her hand, but comes flying right back. After she checked her wrist action and flew it a few more times convinced that it was no accident, she probably happily enjoyed its uniqueness. The invention of the returning boomerang may have been completely unexpected, but it's continuing use and success was intentional. International events and even canine competitions have evolved as a result of it.

Our words and actions can boomerang with the same unanticipated results as these spinning, banana-shaped sticks. So, the question is, "Have you been flying happy bananas or sour grapes?" If the communications you have been sending have not been netting positive results, you may have been following the secondary meaning of boomerang: ***miscalculation, recoils on its maker***. To prevent "recoils," it is very important to treat communication like a purposeful boomerang and plan for good vibes to come back to you.

Here's a boomerang example. You received an invitation to attend a reception likely to be resplendent with tempting food. Standing beside your desk, hands on your hips, lip poked out and with agitation in your voice you spin these sharp-edged words out into the air hitting your nearby co-worker, "Oh, crud! I hate these things. They're so over-rated. How is anyone supposed to stay on a low carb diet in front of an amaretto cheese cake?"

Will your boomerang come back, or will it hit a tree? Will your co-worker be positive and accepting, or bewildered and flabbergasted? What will your friend make of what you said? Will she think that you meant, "I don't like being invited to things?" Or, will she just think that you got up on the wrong side of the bed? What is even more important is how you feel inside. Could you have meant, "I'm self-conscious in these situations?"

The way we walk, talk, gesture and choose words combine to become our personal communication style. And, positive our out-going messages increase the likelihood of positive returns. Boomerangs can be "tuned" and so can your communication delivery. Tuning a boomerang changes the flight, distance and direction. You can even pop a plywood "rang" into your microwave for a few seconds to soften the glue and make bending easier. Recalculating your communication delivery is as quick as microwaving a Lean Cuisine.

So, why not try "tuning" the first message to improve the flight pattern? Picture yourself, invitation in hand, seconds before you say, "Oh, crud!" Spin your thoughts in the warm microwave first, and feel the difference,

“Hmmm,” you say. “I wonder what this is?” With an easy glide the letter opener slits through the pretty, linen envelope. Pulling the card out you recognize the sponsor, time, date and location. “Wonderful,” you say out loud. An hour later with a smile on your face, meet your friend at the office coffee maker, “Oh, I hope you’re going to the reception next month. The networking should be great! I want them to serve fresh shrimp so I can stay away from the dessert tables.” What a different feel this one has from the first, tense message. It’s full of anticipation and confidence. Your friend won’t have any questions about the positive the meaning of these words and gestures.

Needless to say, this boomerang will come back on a soft breeze rather than a hard thump. The message that your friend received was, “She’s really nice to be around and in such a good mood.” And, you have also given a big boost to your self-confidence. “I can handle this. No dessert table is going to get in my way!”

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