



Curating the best and worst of internet culture

Saturday December 28, 2024

Hello fellow web crawlers! Andrew here. **Welcome to today's edition of web_crawler.**

Happy Saturday! I hope your weekend is off to a great start. Our top stories today are about: An Amazon shopper **warning about a new scam to look out for**, and how some guy's dad **writing a Grinch 2 script has captivated the internet**.

After that, we take a look at some of **the best memes of 2024**.

P.S. — If you answer **our survey** down below, you'll be entered to win **a Daily Dot hat**. (I ordered one to test before we gave it away, it's pretty sweet! I've rocked it around town a few times).

See you next week! We've got **even more end of year coverage** for you!

— A.W.

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⚡ Today in Internet Culture



'I've just been scammed': Amazon shopper refreshes account. Then 8 iPhone 16s pop up in her basket

Even the most tech-savvy person **can get caught up in a phone scam**. If you're an Amazon user, [here's a scam to look out for](#).

[▶ READ MORE](#)



'It reads like a unibomber manifesto'—Some guy's dad wrote a 'Grinch 2' script and people are obsessed

A Reddit user's dad wrote and shared a script for a **Grinch 2** movie that [has people across social media losing their minds](#).

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A week (plus) of giveaways!





All week, **web_crawlr** will be **giving away some cool swag** so you can show off to your friends that **you are extremely online**.

All you have to do is **click on the button below** and answer a **few quick questions** to be entered to win! We'll pick **5 people each day** to win and reach out to you.

Each day **we'll have a different prize**, so be sure to check out the newsletter **every day this week** to see what you could win!

[TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)

10 Memes That Defined 2024



By [Kyle Calise](#)
Video Producer



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2024 is almost at an end, and it was one **that was unrelenting in its memeable moments**. Whether they **dredged up oldies but goodies** from the advice animals days of yore, or **stampeded through the front pages of gen alpha TikTok**, we got countless moments to **laugh, cheer on**, or simply be **confused**.

A meme is really at its core **anything that a crowd online can collectively get hung up on**. As such when they happen, they're a **good way to take the pulse of the general population**.

So a look back at the biggest ones of the year is actually a pretty good way to **get a grip on what we all actually lived through**.

Here are our Top 10 memes of 2024.



🍁 10) Christian Girl Autumn

Christian Girl Autumn may have been a meme that began a few years ago, but this past fall, Caitlin Covington [literally woke up](#) from her slumber ready to **embrace pumpkin spice everything** in a series of videos for Pop Crave.

This was the **fifth year in a row** that legions of people online stanned for the demure coziness that is Christian Girl Autumn.

🐺 9) Wolf Memes

Wolf memes are really [more of a preoccupation than a discreet single meme](#).

In late 2023, and into the early part of this year, users on X and Reddit (but mostly TikTok) **all tried to express their own individuality**—by sharing videos of the same artwork and furry animals.

If you're into the **Drain Gang**, there's the **Emo Wolf**, or if you're totally above the entire social dynamic, you might be a **Sigma**.

🎤 8) Drake Memes

Although the video for [Hotline bling](#) came out a **whopping nine years ago** now, its legacy is something that's **still relevant to internet culture today**.

In May, Drake memes **briefly had a new moment** when Kendrick Lamar and Future both called him out in their [new singles](#), “Not Like Us,” and “Like That,” respectively. It was the latest episode in a **longstanding feud** that Drake has had with the rest of the hip-hop world, [and it reminded us all](#) of the **awesomeness of Drake Memes** in the first place.

❓ 7) English or Spanish

Sometimes the **simplest things** are the **catchiest**.

In February, TikToker Alfonso Nieves [began pranking young men](#) in shopping malls by getting their attention with the question, “**English or Spanish?**” and then **causing them to freeze** up with the dare, “Whoever moves first is gay.”

Controversial [for all the reasons you might expect](#), but a smash hit of a viral fad nonetheless, to some people this was a **problematic regression** to a less woke time in our culture, while to others, it was all good fun.

🍊 6) Orange Peel Theory

If the popularity of English or Spanish proves the **insensitivity of bros** **writ large**, then the success of [The Orange Peel Theory](#) proves, well, just the opposite.

Like a **digital-age** “[he loves me, he loves me not](#),” the Orange Peel Theory suggests that if your boyfriend **will peel an orange for you** with no thought of reward then **he’s committed**. And if he won’t, **he isn’t**. The act of peeling an orange is something that [anyone can do for themselves](#), but it’s a nice gesture if someone will do it for you, no questions asked.

In January of 2024, masses of women on TikTok went about [putting their significant others to the test](#).

◆ 5) Condescending Wonka

In February, a **Willy Wonka** themed event billed as “**immersive**” and “**enchanting**” opened in Glasgow Scotland. But rather than the G-rated psychedelic candyland families were expecting, visitors were greeted by [two sad oompa loompas bartending in a cold, sad, sparse warehouse](#).

Enter [Condescending Wonka](#), a **relic from the Advice Animals years**, whose **sass and jadedness** seemed all of a sudden to be the **most on-the-nose reaction possible** to such an immediate flop.

☀ 4) Bleach Blonde Bad Built Butch Body

Three months later and an ocean away, **condescension and apprehensiveness** were again the feelings of the day, but this time it was emanating [both from and toward elected officials in the halls of congress](#).

What began as a **run of the mill crazy petty fight** about hair color and eyelashes during a House Oversight Committee meeting, morphed into a [rhythmic and postmodern catchphrase](#) where people made fun of their favorite cartoon characters.

❖ 3) Hawk Tuah

What’s one move in bed that makes a man go crazy every time? **Hailey Welch**’s colorful answer to the **equally colorful question** [quickly made](#) the [entire internet do a double take](#) this summer. But the success of her 15 minutes of fame was **seemingly equaled** only by her impressive business savvy.

Within weeks, Welch was **selling merch**, had **talent representation**, her **own podcast**, and was appearing on stage with huge country music stars, milking her celebrity **for all its worth**.

■ 2) Kamala Brat

When **CharliXCX** proclaimed that “[kamala IS brat](#),” Democrats the country over had what ended up being an **all-too-brief moment of elation**, in an ultimately **doomed and soul-crushing election cycle**.

For [a moment in July and August](#), instead of nightmares about the fall of

ancient Rome, in left-leaning circles there was [music and dancing, coconut emojis, hope, weird Gen-Z non sequiturs, and the sneaking if incorrect suspicion](#) that things [might end up okay after all](#).

1) Moo Deng

Cute baby animals can be one of the **purest sources of joy**. In September, the **world exploded in unbridled adoration** of the latest one to snuggle up into all our hearts—[Moo Deng, the pygmy hippo](#).

For about **8 weeks**, she was the [hottest thing in the meme world](#), cutely eating her watermelon, cutely napping, cutely splashing around in her pen and her puddles. Her fame caused the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand to **become world famous** for bringing this light into all of our hearts, until America's presidential election in November.

Like a Vietnamese, political version of **Punxsutawney Phil**, Democrats [tried to cancel her](#) when her keepers **offered her two fruit and veggie cakes** with Kamala Harris' and Donald Trump's names, and she went **straight for the Trump one**.

Figures.

Editor's note: web_crawlr readers like you [inducted Moo Deng into the 2024 Daily Dot Hall of Fame!](#)

Be sure to check out Monday's newsletter for:

10 Must Reads From Our Investigative Team

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Loved it!



Meh...



Hated it.

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