Face Palm: 5 awkward situations and how to get out of them

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Awkward situations occur daily. You endure each one, let it pass and tread on, right? Wrong. Next time Mr. Awkward Situation rears his foul head, you’ll be able to bitch slap him across the face with these quick and easy fixes to five common awkward situations we’ve all encountered.

THE SITUATION: The Wave
Sitting on the third floor of Parks Library you see two girls you think you might know waving at you. You politely return the gesture, only it turns out they weren’t waving at you. Shit.

THE FIX:
Just keep waving. You can wave at a person, a wall, a textbook, anything at all—just commit to it because it’s your only salvation. They thought you were waving at them, but, as far as they know, you weren’t. The only concern is the possibility of you making other people think you’re waving at them and then a chain reaction of awkward waves may entail. But if they read this article, they’ll know what to do. And hey, every man for himself, right?

THE SITUATION: The New Acquaintance
You and your best wingman meet another really cool guy, and you’re hitting it off really well. Then your wingman leaves you to play beer pong and you’re left with this more-or-less stranger. You suddenly realize you don’t have anything to say.

THE FIX:
If you’ve taken Econ 101, you may know a thing or two about opportunity costs.
An opportunity cost is what you must lose to gain something else. In this case, if you decide to fix this situation, your opportunity cost is making one new friend. If you decide to try and see if you can gain another person in your social circle, your cost is a terribly uncomfortable situation. Let’s assume you’ve made the smart decision.

Answer your phone. Nobody calling you? Well, someone is now!

THE SITUATION:
Wrong Class
So you’ve overslept. You rush to class, stumble in and sit down. After a minute or two you realize you don’t recognize anyone. And who’s the professor?

THE FIX:
Stay there. (Unless you have a test in the class you’re actually supposed to be in—then you’re screwed.) Otherwise, take notes like you normally would, answer a question if you feel so bold and ignore the confused stares. If you act like you belong there the people who notice you will convince themselves that you’ve been there the entire semester. Odds are you’ll never see any of them again anyway.

THE SITUATION:
You’ve Slipped On Ice
That patch of ice literally comes out of nowhere and you just eat it. Bystanders stare at you but don’t try to make a joke out of it or even help you up.

THE FIX:
Get up in a really cool way. I’m talking something you’d see from “The Matrix,” “Rush Hour,” or some James Bond shit. Or maybe just an awesome volleyball roll. This may require some practice beforehand. (And don’t forget to practice with a backpack on.) If you just biff it and awkwardly get up or, even worse, just blindly lay there, you’ll make a lot of people really uncomfortable. On top of that, you’ll become “That Guy” or “That Girl” for someone. But if you fall and follow it with some Jackie Chan voodoo, you won’t be awkward, you’ll be awesome.

THE SITUATION:
You Avoid Has You Cornered
You’re on your way to class when an old acquaintance catches your eyes. Your best efforts have failed; eye contact has been made and confrontation can’t be avoided.

THE FIX:
You’re late to a class, for work, anything you can come up with. Tell them you have to run, but you’d love to catch up sometime. Have them call you, this way it’s on them to contact you and you’re off the hook if they don’t. Bonus points if you’ve changed your number.

THE SITUATION: You Let One Rip
You’re running your fourth mile on the track, crunching into your 500th sit-up, when all of a sudden you have to let one rip.

THE FIX:
If it’s just noisy, play it cool. Pretend like you slipped and make more farting noises by rubbing the sweaty palms of your hands against the mat. If it’s silent but deadly, there’s no saving you. Just get out of there faster than the speed of smell.