The frustration of people who are not interested in why something works but only interested in the magic phrase they need to type

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It's frustrating when people who are presumably smart (or who are at least pretending to be) have a problem and are satisfied to receive the magic phrase they need to type with no interest at all in understanding why the magic phrase works. For example, here's a question sent to an internal mailing list for users of something I'll call *Program Q*.

> **From**: X
> Why is it that after I use program Q to create a table, nothing else works? Here's a batch file I've written:
>
> ```
> q create table newtable
> pause
> q create table newtable2
> ```
>
> The `pause` command never executes; in fact, nothing in the batch file executes after the first line. How can I create multiple tables from a batch file?

My psychic powers didn't need very much charging up to solve this one. Program Q is a popular one, and some teams like to create a wrapper around it for whatever reason.

> My psychic powers tell me that the first "q" on the path is not q.exe.

Another person on the mailing list knew what I was getting at and picked up the ball.

> **From**: Y
> Try using `call q create table newtable` instead.

(Maybe you too can figure out what my psychic powers told me the problem was.)

The response:

> **From**: X
>
> Thanks, that did the trick. I put a `call` in front of the first line and now the entire batch file runs.

I replied:

> Dear X. Please confirm that the first `q` on the path is in fact a batch file, in order to confirm that you understand the reason why you were encountering the problem, that it has nothing to do with Program Q, and that you understand why the fix works. Don't just copy the answer from your neighbor.
>
> I've already decided that I'm going to blog about people who accept an answer without bothering to understand why it works. Here's your chance to at least look good when that blog entry comes out.

There was no response.

Update: This was a mailing list for a programmer's tool. And if you're a programmer, you'd better understand what you're doing when you do it, not just cargo-cult your way through your job. Especially since this particular problem *had nothing to do with Program Q in the first place.* (On the other hand, I don't blame non-programmers for being satisfied with magic phrases.)

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