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1.1 How about a picture of John *not* in a tuxedo?

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### 1.2 Three definitions of "bit":

- (1) A binary digit (pp. 1, 4, 18, 20, 22).
- (2) Past tense of "bite" (p. 1).
- (3) A small amount (pp. 6, 10).

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#### 1.3

- ASIC Application-Specific Integrated Circuit
- CAD Computer-Aided Design
  - CD Compact Disc
  - CO Central Office
- CPLD Complex Programmable Logic Device
  - DIP Dual In-line Pin
- DVD Digital Versatile Disc
- FPGA Field-Programmable Gate Array
- HDL Hardware Description Language
  - IC Integrated Circuit
  - IP Internet Protocol
- LSI Large-Scale Integration
- MCM Multichip Module
- MSI Medium-Scale Integration
- NRE Nonrecurring Engineering
- PBX Private Branch Exchange
- PCB Printed-Circuit Board
- PLD Programmable Logic Device
- PWB Printed-Wiring Board
- SMT Surface-Mount Technology
  - SSI Small-Scale Integration
- VHDL VHSIC Hardware Description Language
- VLSI Very Large-Scale Integration

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#### 1.4

ABEL Advanced Boolean Equation Language

CMOS Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor

DDPP Digital Design Principles and Practices

JPEG Joint Photographic Experts Group

MPEG Moving Picture Experts Group

OK Although we use this word hundreds of times a week whether things are OK or not, we have probably rarely wondered about its history. That history is in fact a brief one, the word being first recorded in 1839, though it was no doubt in circulation before then. Much scholarship has been expended on the origins of OK, but Allen Walker Read has conclusively proved that OK is based on a sort of joke. Someone pronounced the phrase "all correct" as "oll (or orl) correct," and the same person or someone else spelled it "oll korrect," which abbreviated gives us OK. This term gained wide currency by being used as a political slogan by the 1840 Democratic candidate Martin Van Buren, who was nicknamed Old Kinderhook because he was born in Kinderhook, New York. An editorial of the same year, referring to the receipt of a pin with the slogan O.K., had this comment: "frightful letters . . . significant of the birth-place of Martin Van Buren, old Kinderhook, as also the rallying word of the Democracy of the late election, 'all correct' .... Those who wear them should bear in mind that it will require their most strenuous exertions ... to make all things O.K." [From the *American Heritage Electronic Dictionary* (AHED), copyright 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company]

PERL According to some, it's "Practical Extraction and Report Language." But the relevant Perl FAQ entry, in perlfaq1.pod, says "never write 'PERL', because perl isn't really an acronym, apocryphal folklore and post-facto expansions notwithstanding." (Thanks to Anno Siegel for enlightening me on this.)

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## 1.5

- Wrist watches and alarm clocks.
- Cash registers? No, they were never really analog. Rather, they were electro-mechanical digital systems.
- Gasoline pumps.
- Bathroom scales.
- Thermometers and blood-pressure gauges.
- Speedometers.
- Sketches "drawn" by police artists.
- Musical greeting cards.

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1.6 The same function is performed by a single 2-input OR gate.

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1.7 Never.

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1.8 In my book, "dice" is the plural of "die."