WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY COLLEAGUE’S OFFICE?

I'M A YOUTUBE CELEBRITY! YOU PROBABLY DON'T RECOGNIZE ME BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT 13, BUT YOUTUBE IS THE EDUCATIONAL TOOL OF THE FUTURE! NO NEED FOR STUFFY PROFESSORS AND BORING BOOKS AND COLLEGES!

HMM . . . SO IF I CONVINCE YOU THAT YOUTUBE ISN'T AS USEFUL AS YOU THINK IT IS, WILL YOU LEAVE?
You're on, Prof! YouTube self-help videos are everywhere!

From makeup tutorials . . .

To car repair . . .

. . . To astrophysics!

There's nothing you can't learn from amateur videos these days!

Could you, say, watch a video to learn how to pull a tablecloth off a table without breaking any glasses?

Sure I could! Why?

Because we asked six subject groups to predict how well they could perform the tablecloth trick . . .
ONE GROUP GOT A SINGLE CHANCE TO WATCH A VIDEO OF HOW TO DO THE TRICK.

ONE GROUP READ AN EXPLANATION ONCE.

AND ONE GROUP WAS GIVEN TIME TO THINK ON THEIR OWN.

ONE GROUP WATCHED THE VIDEO 20 TIMES.

ONE GROUP READ LONGER INSTRUCTIONS.

AND THE LAST GROUP WAS GIVEN 60 SECONDS TO THINK.

EVERY GROUP ESTIMATED THEIR ABILITY TO DO THE TRICK SIMILARLY EXCEPT FOR THE GROUP THAT HAD SEEN THE VIDEO 20 TIMES. WATCHING THE TRICK PERFORMED MADE PEOPLE OVERCONFIDENT!

MAYBE IT MADE THEM JUST-RIGHT CONFIDENT!
IT’S UNLIKELY THAT THEY ACTUALLY LEARNED MORE. IN A SIMILAR TEST WITH DARTS, STUDY PARTICIPANTS WHO WATCHED THE VIDEOS 20 TIMES WERE MORE CONFIDENT, BUT PERFORMED IDENTICALLY TO PEOPLE IN OTHER GROUPS.

WELL, I’VE BEEN WATCHING VIDEOS AND I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DO THE TABLECLOTH TRICK.

PROVE IT! 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . .

IT WORKED! NOW WE KNOW HOW TO GET YOUTUBE CELEBRITIES OUT OF OUR OFFICE!

THERE’S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR LEARNING BY DOING!