Points of View

Voice 1: I've told you before, you shouldn't do that! It will take seven years to digest.

Voice 2: I don't see how that's possible. Seriously! I've swallowed it before, and if it took that long, I'd have huge gobs in my stomach. I'd be sick. It can't be true.

Voice 3: Research has shown that the only way gum would stay inside your stomach that long would be if it were so large, it got trapped in your intestines. It would have to be larger around than a quarter.

Voice 4: Gum is pretty immune to the digestive process. It usually just leaves the body looking the same as when it came in.

Voice 5: So it won’t harm you to swallow gum, but it’s probably a good idea not to.

Voice 1: Don’t cross your eyes! You know if they do that, they’ll stay that way.

Voice 2: But it looks funny. And I don’t keep them crossed that long. I’ll be okay.
Voice 3: Your eyeballs are controlled by six muscles. If you look up, down, or sideways, the muscles move. Crossing your eyes makes those muscles move that way. If something comes really close to your face, your eyes cross naturally.

Voice 4: Crossing your eyes may very well strain those eye muscles. You could have spasms or twitches, and your eyes could feel very tired. But no evidence suggests they would stick that way for more than a short time.

Voice 5: So your eyes would feel normal after an hour or so. But do you really want to have tired eyes? Besides, it's not nice to torment your little brother.

Voice 1: Those little silica packets say "Do not eat" for a reason. They're in that bottle to keep the contents dry, not to eat.

Voice 2: I heard that if you eat those, you can dry out your entire body. They probably don't taste very good, but I wonder what would happen if you ate them.

Voice 3: Silica is nearly harmless. Silica absorbs and holds moisture. If you happened to put some in your mouth, you would have a very bad case of dry mouth.

Voice 4: Ingesting silica could have a few irritating side effects, such as dry eyes and throat and an itchy nose. But a 210-pound man would have to consume 58,800 packets of silica gel to soak up all the water in his body!

Voice 5: I think we agree on this one. Not harmful, but not fun! Let's just throw those packets away.

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