

why did you choose this **particular** nickname? -- my real name is eric, **which unlike** the great zucchini is not a name that **makes kids laugh**.

I **can't even** remember where I first **came across** the nickname. I **guess I must have heard** it in a movie or something. or maybe **there's a meal that's called** the great zucchini **either way**, I like it, and **even if I didn't**, it's **too late to change** it, it **has become something of a trademark of mine**.

so what exactly do you do for a living?
-- **aren't you supposed to** do some preparation? I mean, **shouldn't you at least** know why I'm **important enough to have** a press conference?

anyway, I'm a magician. not a david copperfield-kind of magician, **although I do admire** him.

I would be lying if I said I didn't.

obviously I wish **I was as good as david** but **the truth is** I'm not and I'll never be. I specialize **in entertaining** little kids.

why don't you do older kids? -- it **may have** something **to do with the fact** that I'm not **good at** anything magicians **are supposed to be** good **at doing**.

I don't **know how to** juggle, I can't **make** things **disappear** or appear **out of nowhere**. **there are no** rabbits in my show, **let alone** rabbits that **turn into** other animals.

all I know how to do is **trip over** things and fall and **pretend to get hurt**. little kids **seem to love** that. **I'm afraid** older kids **would be bored**.

in spite of the **lack** of skills you've **become** very successful. **why is that?** -- like I said, I **am aware of** my limits and I wouldn't **dare to** test them

if I had to do a show like that, I would **fail miserably**. **good thing** I know that **or else** I would have **made** a fool of myself **a lot of times**. my shtick **is being** a **clumsy** clown who **may have no** skills and can't **get anything right** but still **keeps trying no matter how many times** he falls on his ass, he just gets up and **keeps going**. **that's what** I do, that's the shtick I **stick to** other magicians **must have heard** of you **by now**, right? -- I **remember them laughing at** me when I first **got started** they **have graduated from** clown colleges or **whatever they're called**. they have actual **degrees** and they **believe** that **unless** you **know how to** juggle five apples **at the same time** you can't **make it** in this business. but I **did make it** even **without having all** these skills. I **proved them wrong**.

I **have been asked to** do parties for eight-year-olds and I **have turned them down** politely, **knowing** it **would have been** a disaster

some of them **have come to** realize that they don't have to **feel threatened by** me. we don't really **compete against each other.** but **none of** them has **actually** come up to me and said I **am doing a good job.**

you have a very **busy schedule.** do parents brag **about hiring** you for their kids' parties?

they're **actually** kind of **ashamed of having me over at their place.** they **would rather have** someone more **sophisticated,** someone **whose name** they could **drop** in front of their friends.

the kids **aren't interested in watching** an artist. **what they want is** laugh at a **loser.** I'm **happy to be** that loser **as long as I get paid.**