

# TROLLS, BOTS, & SOCK PUPPETS

## 1: THE REVIEW

You are on a shopping site and see this review:



It seems real, and maybe it is. But when you scroll down to read more reviews, you see another review by @SHHOOxpert that says: “The Rubberee shoes stink. I’d give them a zero if I could. I am returning these and going back to what I used to wear: ARSRGR8 shoes. They’re the best.”

When you look at a different pair of shoes, you notice the same review by @1SuperStar. Now you are curious and check more styles by Ruberee. Each one has the exact same reviews by @SuperStar1 and @SHHOOexpert.

**Circle one.**

**@1SuperStar is   a) Real   b) A Troll   c) A Bot   d) A Sock Puppet**

**Explain your reasoning:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2: THE DOG PARK SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP

You join a social media group about creating a dog park. The plan is to replace a practice field with a dog park instead. People have lots of opinions.



**Dr.Vet:** "Dogs need to play, too!"

**Zach:** "But why should we favor dog owners?"

**Dr.Vet:** "It doesn't just favor dog owners. Lots of people bring dogs to the park but not everyone likes to be near dogs. A special area would make it easier for the people who don't like dogs to stay away from them."

**J.Smith:** "Dog owners think they own the world. Besides, poodles are ugly."

**Dr.Vet:** "The type of dog doesn't matter."

**J.Smith:** "You're probably hoping that fenced in dogs will bite each other so you'll have more business."

**Dr.Vet:** "I love animals and never want to see them hurt. And I don't need the business. I'm retired."

**YaYa.Min:** "I like Poodles."

**J.Smith:** "Do you have a stupid haircut like poodles do?"

**N.Doubleday:** "Our town won't be able to host league games anymore if there are no practice fields where visiting teams can warm up."

**J.Smith:** "Who cares?"

**N.Doubleday:** "All the families who have to drive their kids to other parts of town for games."

**J.Smith:** "Parents who really love their kids don't mind driving them."

**Player.Coach:** "There is another practice field on the other side of the park."

**LLFan:** "The practice field is where the younger kids play when the older kids are using the big field next to it. What will parents do if one kid is playing on the main field and the other is across the park?"

**J.Smith:** "I'd rather have a pool."

**Jay.Ray:** "A pool sounds like a good idea."

**YaYa.Min:** "A dog park costs a lot less than a pool."

**J.Smith:** "So we can look at your stupid poodle?"

**YaYa.Min:** "J.Smith, I wasn't talking to you. Besides, my dog is a Chihuahua, not a Poodle."

**J.Smith:** "So what? Cats are better than dogs anyway."

Circle one.

J.Smith is   a) Real   b) A Troll   c) A Bot   d) A Sock Puppet

Explain your reasoning: \_\_\_\_\_

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**3: COOKING ADVICE**

Emma likes to cook, so she started to follow the account of a celebrity chef. She liked the chef's recipes, and in the comments people shared really good ideas. But the comments on a post about the difference between muffins cooked with butter and muffins made with oil, there was this:



**@AllTheKitchenThings - 3d**

Have you seen the new Parexxcellance pans? Perfect no-stick cooking every time. And they are super durable, even if you put them in a dishwasher.

She thought that was strange because no one was talking about pans. They were talking about muffins, and you make muffins in muffin tins, not pans. A few days later, in a thread about seasoning hamburgers on a grill, this post showed up, along with a picture of a set of pans in someone's home kitchen:



**@AllTheKitchenThings - 2hr**

Have you seen the new Parexxcellance pans? Great non-toxic, no-stick coating. I love that they are super durable, even if you put them in a dishwasher.

Emma started following other chefs and sometimes **@AllTheKitchenThings** posted in those threads, too. The posts were always about how much they loved cooking with Parexxcellance pans or how much better Parexxcellance pans were compared to other brands. But the posts were never labeled as ads, so she figured that maybe this person just really likes their pans.

Still, Emma could never figure out why the posts were never about the topic of the conversation. So she looked more closely. She noticed that **@AllTheKitchenThings** always seemed to be in threads where the original post used the words "cook" or "cooked." But they did not post in threads that did not have those words, like when someone asked where they could buy an unusual spice.

**Circle one.**

**@AllTheKitchenThings is   a) Real   b) A Troll   c) A Bot   d) A Sock Puppet**

**Explain your reasoning:** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4: THE SUPER FANS

Roberto was enjoying learning how to cook. He found a channel full of videos from a busy couple who shared tips for quick and easy ways to cook and clean up afterward. He thought it was okay, but not great. That also seemed to be how others reacted.

A few weeks later, he was surprised to see that the couple had gained a lot of followers. Roberto didn't think the videos had improved much, but suddenly there were many threads with rave reviews.



**@Geor** 2 wks ago

"That was the best tip ever!"

**@KLNsmith** 2 wks ago

"When are you going to write a book?"

**@ILoveLoveLovetoCook** 2 wks ago

"Thanks for the great tip. I finally got my kid to bed on time because we got the cleaning done so quick!"

**@TimeSaverLover** 2 wks ago

"Can't wait for the next video."

When Roberto checked again, the couple had even more followers. They announced that you could get all their tips in their new book. The book could be yours for only \$29.99. That seemed like a lot of money for tips that were only okay. Then he began to notice that the positive comments seemed to be coming from the same accounts over and over:



**@TimeSaverLover** 1 day ago

"I got the book and it's great. My favorite was the hack on preparing school lunches."

**@KLNsmith** 1 day ago

"Thanks for a great book. I'm going to get another one to give to my sister for Christmas!"

**@Geor** 3 days ago

"Really liked this week's tip. It was so funny! Shared it with my dad and he thought it was funny, too. Great job."

**@KnotwhouthinkIM** 3 days ago

"So glad I found this great channel. Now I have to go back and watch all your old videos!"

**Circle one.**

**The positive comments are: a) Real   b) A Troll   c) A Bot   d) Sock Puppets**

**Explain your reasoning:** \_\_\_\_\_

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