

# **garcia family accent loss**

**garcia family accent loss** is a phenomenon observed within certain families and communities where the distinctive linguistic features of an accent gradually diminish or disappear over generations. This article explores the causes, implications, and examples of accent loss in the Garcia family, a case that illustrates broader sociolinguistic trends. Understanding accent loss involves examining factors such as migration, assimilation, generational language shifts, and social identity. The Garcia family's experience provides insight into how accents evolve or fade, affecting cultural heritage and communication. This analysis also addresses the psychological and social dimensions of accent loss, as well as its impact on family and community cohesion. The following sections outline the key aspects of garcia family accent loss and its relevance in the context of language preservation and change.

- Causes of Garcia Family Accent Loss
- Generational Changes and Language Shift
- Social and Psychological Impacts
- Examples and Case Studies
- Preserving Accent and Cultural Identity

## **Causes of Garcia Family Accent Loss**

The phenomenon of garcia family accent loss is influenced by multiple linguistic and social factors. Prominent among these are migration and assimilation into a predominant culture or language environment. When families relocate to regions where a different language or accent dominates, younger generations often adapt their speech to align with local norms. This adaptation facilitates social integration but can lead to the gradual erosion of original accent features.

## **Migration and Geographic Relocation**

Migration plays a critical role in accent loss. For the Garcia family, moving from Spanish-speaking regions to English-speaking areas introduces a new linguistic environment. Children and grandchildren exposed primarily to English may develop speech patterns that reflect the dominant accent rather than the original one. This shift is often motivated by the need to fit in socially and professionally.

## **Assimilation and Cultural Integration**

Assimilation pressures often encourage accent modification. The desire to avoid discrimination or

social exclusion can lead individuals to consciously or unconsciously alter their speech. In the Garcia family, this process manifests as a softening or complete loss of the original Spanish-accented English, replaced by a more neutral or standard American English accent.

## **Language Education and Media Influence**

Exposure to mainstream media and formal education in a dominant language environment accelerates accent loss. For the Garcia family's younger members, schooling in English and consumption of English-language media fosters pronunciation and vocabulary consistent with the broader culture, diminishing the retention of the original accent.

## **Generational Changes and Language Shift**

Generational differences are a primary factor in Garcia family accent loss. Each generation exhibits varying degrees of accent retention, often influenced by their level of exposure to the original language and cultural environment. Over time, this leads to a language shift, where the heritage language and accent give way to the dominant language norms.

### **First Generation: Heritage Accent Retention**

The first generation in the Garcia family typically retains the original accent strongly due to their upbringing in the native linguistic context. Their speech reflects phonetic patterns, intonations, and pronunciations characteristic of their heritage language and region.

### **Second Generation: Transitional Accent Features**

The second generation often experiences a blend of accents. While they may understand and speak the heritage language, their accent may incorporate elements of the dominant language due to schooling and social interactions. This transitional stage is critical in the pathway toward accent loss.

### **Third Generation and Beyond: Dominant Language Accent**

By the third generation, the accent of the dominant language usually prevails. The original accent features are often diminished or absent, reflecting a full language shift. In the Garcia family, this stage marks significant Garcia family accent loss as cultural and linguistic identities evolve.

## **Social and Psychological Impacts**

The loss of a family accent carries social and psychological consequences. For the Garcia family, these impacts include shifts in identity, social belonging, and heritage connection. Understanding these effects is vital to appreciating the broader significance of accent loss.

## Identity and Belonging

Accent is a key marker of cultural and social identity. When members of the Garcia family lose their distinctive accent, they may experience a sense of disconnection from their heritage. Conversely, adopting the dominant accent can enhance social acceptance but may also create internal conflicts regarding cultural authenticity.

## Perceptions and Stereotypes

Accent loss can influence how individuals are perceived by both their own community and the wider society. For the Garcia family, shedding a Spanish accent may reduce experiences of bias or stereotyping but can also lead to perceptions of cultural assimilation or loss of ethnic distinctiveness.

## Emotional Effects

The process of accent loss can evoke complex emotions, including pride, regret, or ambivalence. Family members might feel pride in their ability to adapt linguistically while simultaneously mourning the loss of a unique cultural trait. These emotional dynamics are part of the broader narrative of Garcia family accent loss.

## Examples and Case Studies

Examining specific instances within the Garcia family provides concrete illustrations of accent loss dynamics. Case studies reveal patterns and highlight contributing factors in real-life contexts.

## Urban vs. Rural Experiences

Members of the Garcia family residing in urban centers often exhibit more pronounced accent loss due to higher exposure to diverse linguistic influences and pressures to conform. In contrast, those in rural or tight-knit communities may retain stronger accent features longer, reflecting less external influence.

## Professional and Educational Settings

In professional environments, Garcia family members may consciously adjust their accent to meet workplace expectations or improve communication. Educational settings also contribute to accent modification through peer interactions and standardized language instruction.

## Intergenerational Communication

Differences in accent between generations can affect communication within the Garcia family. Younger members may struggle to relate to older relatives' speech patterns, while elders might perceive accent loss as a sign of cultural drift. These dynamics illustrate the social complexity of

garcia family accent loss.

## **Preserving Accent and Cultural Identity**

Despite tendencies toward accent loss, some families actively seek to preserve their linguistic heritage. The Garcia family's efforts to maintain accent and cultural identity demonstrate strategies to balance integration with heritage retention.

## **Language Education at Home**

Encouraging bilingualism and heritage language use within the household supports accent retention. For the Garcia family, regular use of Spanish alongside English helps maintain phonetic features and cultural connections.

## **Community Involvement**

Participation in cultural events, community groups, and social networks reinforces accent and language preservation. The Garcia family's engagement in cultural organizations sustains linguistic traditions and fosters pride in their heritage.

## **Media and Technology**

Access to media in the heritage language, including television, radio, and online content, supports the retention of accent characteristics. The Garcia family utilizes these resources to expose younger generations to authentic speech patterns.

- Consistent heritage language use at home
- Active participation in cultural communities
- Utilization of heritage language media and technology
- Encouragement of intergenerational language transmission
- Support for bilingual education programs

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the Garcia family accent loss phenomenon?**

The Garcia family accent loss refers to the gradual fading or disappearance of the distinct accent traditionally spoken by members of the Garcia family, often due to cultural assimilation or generational language changes.

## **What causes accent loss in the Garcia family?**

Accent loss in the Garcia family is typically caused by factors such as relocation to areas with different dominant languages or dialects, increased use of a second language, intermarriage, and younger generations adopting more mainstream accents.

## **Is the Garcia family accent loss common among immigrant families?**

Yes, accent loss is common among immigrant families, including the Garcias, as subsequent generations adapt to the dominant cultural and linguistic environment, leading to reduced use of the original accent.

## **How does accent loss affect the Garcia family's cultural identity?**

Accent loss can impact the Garcia family's cultural identity by weakening linguistic ties to their heritage, potentially leading to a diminished sense of connection to their ancestral roots and traditions.

## **Can the Garcia family accent be preserved despite accent loss trends?**

Yes, the Garcia family accent can be preserved through deliberate efforts such as speaking the native language at home, cultural education, community involvement, and media consumption in the original dialect.

## **Are there any studies on the Garcia family accent loss?**

While specific studies on the Garcia family accent loss may be limited, research on accent loss in Hispanic families and immigrant communities provides insight into similar linguistic shifts experienced by families like the Garcias.

## **What role does education play in the Garcia family accent loss?**

Education, especially when conducted primarily in a dominant language different from the family's native tongue, can accelerate accent loss as children adopt the pronunciation and speech patterns of their peers and teachers.

## **Does accent loss in the Garcia family affect communication within the family?**

Accent loss can sometimes create communication gaps between generations if older family members retain the original accent or dialect while younger members adopt a different one, potentially leading to misunderstandings or feelings of disconnect.

## **How do media and technology impact the Garcia family accent loss?**

Media and technology often promote the dominant language and accent, influencing younger Garcia family members to adopt these speech patterns, which may contribute to the fading of their traditional accent.

## **Can accent loss be reversed in the Garcia family?**

Accent loss can be partially reversed or mitigated through focused language and cultural programs, immersion in the native language environment, and active practice of traditional speech patterns within the Garcia family.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Voices Fading: The Garcia Family's Journey Through Accent Loss*

This book explores the Garcia family's experience with accent loss across generations. It delves into the cultural and emotional impact of losing their native accent while adapting to a new linguistic environment. Through personal stories and expert insights, the book highlights the complexities of identity and communication.

### *2. Echoes of Identity: Accent Loss in the Garcia Household*

Echoes of Identity examines how the Garcia family navigates the challenges of accent loss amidst societal pressures. The narrative discusses the psychological effects of accent change and the family's efforts to preserve their heritage. It provides a thoughtful analysis of language, culture, and belonging.

### *3. Breaking the Sound Barrier: Accent Shift in the Garcia Family*

This book investigates the phenomenon of accent shift within the Garcia family, focusing on the causes and consequences of losing their original accent. It combines linguistic research with intimate family stories to show how accents influence perception and self-esteem. The book also offers strategies for embracing bilingualism without losing cultural roots.

### *4. Silent Tongues: Accent Loss and Cultural Change in the Garcias*

Silent Tongues addresses the subtle ways accent loss affects the Garcia family's cultural identity. It presents a detailed study of how language adaptation impacts family dynamics and social interactions. The book encourages readers to understand accent loss as a complex process tied to assimilation and identity negotiation.

### *5. From Roots to Resonance: The Garcia Family's Accent Evolution*

This narrative traces the evolution of the Garcia family's accent over time, illustrating the interplay

between language, migration, and identity. It highlights personal anecdotes alongside linguistic theories to explain accent transformation. The book emphasizes the importance of embracing linguistic diversity within families.

#### 6. *Unspoken Changes: Accent Loss in the Garcia Family Story*

*Unspoken Changes* reveals the personal and communal implications of accent loss experienced by the Garcia family. It discusses how losing an accent can lead to feelings of invisibility or cultural disconnection. The book offers insights into maintaining cultural pride while adapting to new linguistic norms.

#### 7. *Shifting Sounds: The Garcia Family and Accent Adaptation*

*Shifting Sounds* explores the adaptive strategies the Garcia family employs to navigate accent loss. It examines the social and emotional factors influencing accent change and how family members cope with shifting identities. The book provides a compassionate look at language as a living aspect of cultural heritage.

#### 8. *Accent Lost, Identity Found: The Garcia Family Experience*

This book presents a hopeful perspective on accent loss, portraying it as an opportunity for the Garcia family to redefine their identity. It discusses the balance between preserving cultural roots and embracing new linguistic environments. Through interviews and reflections, the book celebrates resilience and transformation.

#### 9. *The Garcia Family Accent: A Study in Linguistic Transition*

*The Garcia Family Accent* offers an academic yet accessible study of accent loss within the family context. It combines sociolinguistic theory with real-life examples from the Garcia family to illustrate the dynamics of accent transition. The book serves as a resource for understanding how language change affects family identity and communication.

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Named A Great American Novel by The Atlantic! From the international bestselling author of *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *Afterlife*, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* is poignant...powerful... Beautifully captures the threshold experience of the new immigrant, where the past is not yet a memory. (The New York Times Book Review) Don't miss Alvarez's new novel, *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, available now! Acclaimed writer Julia Alvarez's beloved first novel gives voice to four sisters as they grow up in two cultures. The García sisters—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía—and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wondrous but not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways as the girls try find new lives: by straightening their hair and wearing American fashions, and by forgetting their Spanish. For them, it

is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. Here they tell their stories about being at home—and not at home—in America. Alvarez helped blaze the trail for Latina authors to break into the literary mainstream, with novels like *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* winning praise from critics and gracing best-seller lists across the Americas.—Francisco Cantú, *The New York Times Book Review* A clear-eyed look at the insecurity and yearning for a sense of belonging that are a part of the immigrant experience . . . Movingly told. —*The Washington Post Book World*

**garcia family accent loss:** How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents (SparkNotes Literature Guide) SparkNotes, 2014-08-12 *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents (SparkNotes Literature Guide)* by Julia Alvarez Making the reading experience fun! Created by Harvard students for students everywhere, SparkNotes is a new breed of study guide: smarter, better, faster. Geared to what today's students need to know, SparkNotes provides: \*Chapter-by-chapter analysis \*Explanations of key themes, motifs, and symbols \*A review quiz and essay topics Lively and accessible, these guides are perfect for late-night studying and writing papers

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**garcia family accent loss:** *Latino Literature in America* Bridget Kevane, 2003-12-30 There is growing awareness of the tremendous impact Latino writers have had on the recent literary scene, yet not all readers have the background to fully appreciate the merits and meanings of works like *House on Mango Street*, *Line of the Sun*, *Bless Me Ultima*, and *In the Time of Butterflies*. Offering analysis of their most important, popular, and frequently assigned fictional works, this book surveys the contributions of eight notable Latino writers: Julia Alvarez, Rodolfo Anaya, Sandra Cisneros, Junot Díaz, Christina Garía, Oscar Hijuelos, Ortiz Cofer, and Ernesto Quiñonez. Each chapter gives biographical background on the author and clear literary analysis of the selected works, including a concise plot synopsis. Delving into the question of cultural identity, each work is carefully examined not only in terms of its literary components, but also with regard to the cultural background and historical context. This book illuminates such themes as acculturation, generational differences, immigration, assimilation, and exile. Language, religion, and gender issues are explored against the cultural backdrop, along with the social impact of such historical events as Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico, the early days of Castro's Cuba, and the Trujillo Dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. Students and teachers will find their reading experiences of U.S. Latino works enriched with the literary and cultural perspectives offered here. A list of additional suggested reading is included.

**garcia family accent loss:** Notable Hispanic American Women Diane Telgen, 1993 Contains short biographies of three hundred Hispanic American women who have achieved national or international prominence in a variety of fields.

**garcia family accent loss: Censorship and Exile** Johanna Hartmann, Hubert Zapf, 2015-05-20 Dieser Band behandelt aus interdisziplinärer und transnationaler Perspektive die Zusammenhänge zwischen Exilerfahrung und Zensurmechanismen. Er sammelt literatur- und sprachwissenschaftliche Beiträge, die den Themenkomplex aus komparativer, historischer, politischer und kreativer Perspektive beleuchten. Dabei werden die Kontinuitäten und Diskontinuitäten der Exilliteraturforschung, der Entstehung verschiedener Formen von Exilliteratur und Zensurpraktiken als institutionalisierte Form der Unterdrückung freier Meinungsäußerung und künstlerischer Freiheit in Beziehung zueinander gesetzt. Der Band stellt somit einen in bedeutenden Beitrag zur theoretisch wie auch anwendungsbezogenen Zensur- und Exilforschung dar.

**garcia family accent loss: Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context** Linda De Roche, 2021-06-04 This four-volume reference work surveys American literature

from the early 20th century to the present day, featuring a diverse range of American works and authors and an expansive selection of primary source materials. Bringing useful and engaging material into the classroom, this four-volume set covers more than a century of American literary history—from 1900 to the present. *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* profiles authors and their works and provides overviews of literary movements and genres through which readers will understand the historical, cultural, and political contexts that have shaped American writing. *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* provides wide coverage of authors, works, genres, and movements that are emblematic of the diversity of modern America. Not only are major literary movements represented, such as the Beats, but this work also highlights the emergence and development of modern Native American literature, African American literature, and other representative groups that showcase the diversity of American letters. A rich selection of primary documents and background material provides indispensable information for student research.

**garcia family accent loss: Feminist Time Against Nation Time** Victoria Hesford, Lisa Diedrich, 2009-12-01 *Feminist Time Against Nation Time* offers a series of essays that explore the complex and oftentimes contradictory relationship between feminism and nationalism through a problematization of temporality. Although there has been much recent discussion in the U.S. of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the War on Terror as signaling a new period of permanent war, feminist voices have not been at all prominent in this discussion. This collection considers not only the ways in which public spaces for dissent are limited, but also the ways in which the time for such dissent is cut short. *Feminist Time Against Nation Time* combines philosophical examinations of *Women's Time* by Julia Kristeva and *The Time of Thought* by Elizabeth Grosz, with essays offering case studies of particular events, including Kelly Oliver's essay on the media coverage of the U.S. wars on terror and in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Betty Joseph's on the anti-colonial uses of women's time in the creation of nineteenth-century Indian nationalism. *Feminist Time Against Nation Time* juxtaposes feminist time against nation time in order to consider temporalities that are at once contrary to, but also drawing toward each other. Yet Hesford and Diedrich also argue that because, as an untimely project, feminism necessarily operates in a different temporality from that of the nation, againstness is also used to provoke a rupture, a momentary opening up of a disjuncture between the two that will allow us to explore the possibilities of creating a space and time for feminists to think against the current of the present moment.

**garcia family accent loss: Transformation of Tradition and Culture ????????** Miho Tsukamoto, 2018-02-07 The book *Transformation of Tradition and Culture* is a work of comparative literary research and culture investigation. The book studies world literatures from the USA, the DR, Mexico, Spain, Portuguese, and Japan; US cultures such as the Barbie doll; Mexican mural studies; Japanese subcultures, manga, anime, movies, and food culture; media study; and women in society. It is a book of an authors experiences, culture, and historical footsteps with people from all over the world. Sharing ones own culture with people from different cultural backgrounds is vital for everyone to learn about their own culture, languages, society, economy, politics, and customs.

**garcia family accent loss: Home Matters** R. Rubenstein, 2001-02-23 Despite its typically regressive associations with homesickness, the longing associated with nostalgia may also function progressively as a vehicle for imaginatively 'fixing' the past in two senses: securing and mending or repairing. Considering fiction by two British and six American women writers of different generations and ethnicities, this study explores tensions between home and exile, insider and outsider, longing and belonging, loss and recovery. Rubenstein argues that nostalgia functions narratively as a strategy for interrogating not only notions of home, homesickness, and homeland but also cultural historical dislocation, aging, and moral responsibility. These narratives re-frame a significant locus of concern in contemporary (female) experience: personal and/or cultural dis-placement and longing for home are ultimately transmuted - imaginatively, at least - by a restorative vision that enables healing and emotional repair.

**garcia family accent loss: Encyclopedia of the American Novel** Abby H. P. Werlock,

2015-04-22 Praise for the print edition: ... no other reference work on American fiction brings together such an array of authors and texts as this.

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**garcia family accent loss: Contemporary American Women Fiction Writers** Laurie Champion, Rhonda Austin, 2002-11-30 American women writers have long been creating an extraordinarily diverse and vital body of fiction, particularly in the decades since World War II. Recent authors have benefited from the struggles of their predecessors, who broke through barriers that denied women opportunities for self-expression. This reference highlights American women writers who continue to build upon the formerly male-dominated canon. Included are alphabetically arranged entries for more than 60 American women writers of diverse ethnicity who wrote or published their most significant fiction after World War II. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and includes: ^L^DBLA brief biography ^L^DBLA discussion of major works and themes ^L^DBLA survey of the writer's critical reception ^L^DBLA bibliography of primary and secondary sources

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**garcia family accent loss: Julia Alvarez** Kelli Lyon Johnson, 2005 This book provides the first book-length examination of the writings of Julia Alvarez, the author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* and nearly a dozen other books of fiction and non-fiction and one of today's most widely read Latina writers. Kelli Lyon Johnson perceptively illuminates the themes, ideals, and passions that unite these diverse and rich works, all of which explore issues of understanding and representing identity within a global society. Forced by political oppression to leave the Dominican Republic when still young, Alvarez has lived most of her adult life in the United States. Johnson argues that through her narratives, poetry, and essays, Alvarez has sought to create a cartography of identity in exile. Alvarez inscribes a geography of identity in her work that joins theory and narrative across multiple genres to create a new map of identity and culture. By asserting that she is

mapping a country that's not on the map, Alvarez places creativity and multiplicity at the center of this emerging cartography of identity. Rather than elaborating a hybrid identity that surreptitiously erases distinctions and difference, Alvarez embraces the *mestizaje* or mixture and accumulation of identities, experience, and diversity. To Alvarez, linguistic and cultural multiplicity represents the reality of what it means to be American, and she offers a compelling vision of both self and community in which the homeland Alvarez seeks is the narrative space of her own writings. As Johnson shows, Alvarez will continue to shape American literature by stretching the literary cartography of identity and of the Americas.

**garcia family accent loss: Latina and Latino Voices in Literature** Frances A. Day, 2003-05-30 This revised edition of an award-winning resource celebrates the lives and works of 35 Latina and Latino authors who write for today's young readers. Expanded to include 12 additional authors, updated information on the original 23 authors profiled, and 135 new titles, this comprehensive reference tool helps teachers, librarians, and parents stay current on one of the most dynamic areas of contemporary literature. Both established and emerging voices are profiled. Personal quotes and photographs introduce each biographical essay, presenting information gathered through interviews, personal communications, and research. A complete list of all books and works written by the author is included along with publication information. Annotations are provided for most of the titles, along with information on major themes, awards won, and recommended age levels. *Evaluating Books for Bias* provides helpful guidelines for examining and selecting books from a pluralistic perspective. Appendices offer further helpful information about the field, including special awards honoring books by Latinas and Latinos, a calendar of holidays and special days celebrated by the Latino community, and listings of related resources and organizations. The author has also compiled ideas for classroom activities and ways for librarians to extend the literary experience. A title index and extensive topic index—including themes, curricular areas, and genres—help in planning story sessions and study units. This is a multipurpose resource for anyone who wants to help young readers connect with contemporary literature in a meaningful way.

**garcia family accent loss: What Women Lose** María Cristina Rodríguez, 2005 This book examines novels by women from the anglophone, francophone, and hispanophone Caribbean that focus on marginalized female characters who migrate to metropolitan centers. The novels studied require cultural, historical, sociological, anthropological, and geographic readings to fully explore the complexity of the characters as they confront the varied and changing challenges, hardships, and pleasures of the diaspora. The critical approach focuses on the characters' attempts to hold on to acceptable realities by assuming the appropriate interpersonal, social, and cultural masks that allow them to find a sense of significance in their interior, domestic, and community lives.

**garcia family accent loss: Trailing Clouds** David G. Cowart, 2018-07-05 We stand to learn much about the durability of or changes in the American way of life from writers such as Bharati Mukherjee (born in India), Ursula Hegi (born in Germany), Jerzy Kosinski (born in Poland), Jamaica Kincaid (born in Antigua), Cristina Garcia (born in Cuba), Edwidge Danticat (born in Haiti), Wendy Law-Yone (born in Burma), Mylène Dressler (born in the Netherlands), Lan Cao (born in Vietnam), and such Korean-born authors as Chang-rae Lee, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and Nora Okja Keller—writers who in recent years have come to this country and, in their work, contributed to its culture.—David Cowart In *Trailing Clouds*, David Cowart offers fresh insights into contemporary American literature by exploring novels and short stories published since 1970 by immigrant writers. Balancing historical and social context with close readings of selected works, Cowart explores the major themes raised in immigrant writing: the acquisition of language, the dual identity of the immigrant, the place of the homeland, and the nature of citizenship. Cowart suggests that the attention to first-generation writers (those whose parents immigrated) has not prepared us to read the fresher stories of those more recent arrivals whose immigrant experience has been more direct and unmediated. Highlighting the nuanced reflection in immigrant fiction of a nation that is ever more diverse and multicultural, Cowart argues that readers can learn much about the changes in the

American way of life from writers who have come to this country, embraced its culture, and penned substantial literary work in English.

**garcia family accent loss:** *Travelling Across Cultures* Spanish Association for American Studies. Congreso, 2000

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