

How to be in a Coma

All right class, settle down. Today's lecture is entitled, "How to be in a Coma." You may be saying to yourself, that doesn't sound so hard. You just lie in bed without moving for a few years. And, I might add, get paid by your insurance company to do it. (All right, I will add it.) Well, just you try it! I'll wait . . .

See? Not so easy, was it! The trick, of course, is to only pretend to be in a coma, and not actually fall into one – otherwise you can't sneak out for drinks. Now, being seemingly comatose, you will naturally receive a lot of fruit baskets. These will serve as your secret food source during your coma (but avoid the dried apricots, of course).

Our first slide shows one of these fruit basket, gaily clad in its colored cellophane wrapper. You must learn to secretly remove this cellophane. But be warned: the noise created in doing so can exceed that of a ball peen hammer striking an anvil four inches from the ear (which reminds me, stay away from blacksmiths during your coma). Thus, we recommend removing the cellophane only during loud thunderstorms. Admittedly, this can make for some pretty long dry spells between meals.

Once the cellophane is out of the way, practice secretly plucking pieces of fruit. Before you know it, you'll have quite the little smorgasbord under your sheet. Meanwhile, the nursing staff will think the fruit is being eaten by your visitors. Oh silly, deluded staff!

The last slide shows our little patient decked out in his hospital bed. He has obviously learned the knack of how to be in a coma. Note the angelic half-smile and the hands comfortably crossed on the chest. This is Resting Position #1, recommended for long holiday weekends (excluding Armed Forces Day). Note how close he is to the fruit basket, without trumpeting the fact to any passing nurses. This is masterful lying down.

Next week's lecture is "How to be Dead." Remember: the deceased do not generally receive fruit baskets.

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