

MIND THE GAP

The Canonical Lines Register

Locked verbatim. Maintained alongside the manuscript.

Version 1.0 · 26 May 2026 · 25 lines locked

Purpose

This register holds the canonical lines of Mind the Gap — phrases locked verbatim, by Paul, across the writing of the book. Each line is reproduced exactly as it appears in the manuscript or as originally said. Two lines (9 and 13) are co-authored with Claude; provenance is marked. The register outlives the manuscript. It populates from How to Behave onward.

Use the register as the single authoritative source for back-cover copy, marketing taglines, journal extracts, podcast pitches, Author's Note material, and any other portable use of the book's voice.

On provenance and use

All lines except where marked are Paul Roebuck's words, written or spoken in the course of the editorial work. Two lines (9 and 13) were drafted in conversation with Claude (Anthropic) and adopted by Paul; their provenance is recorded under each entry.

Lines may be quoted with attribution to Paul Roebuck. The two co-authored lines should carry honest attribution when used externally — typically: 'co-authored with Claude' or 'developed in editorial collaboration with Claude'.

THE REGISTER

1. *"I didn't understand anything yet. I just recognised there was something to understand."*

Date locked: 29 May 2026 (corrected from earlier 15 Nov to 5 Nov 2006 source moment)

Source: Spoken by Paul, 5 November 2006, on a corporate behavioural development course. The moment of recognition that became the seed of the book.

Placement: Ch 1 mid-close · Ch 9 opening in bold italic

Candidate placements unused: Author's Note, talk titles, back cover candidate

2. *"I pay attention to behaviour for a living. I listen to what's said, and I hear what isn't."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, in conversation, describing his clinical discipline.

Placement: Ch 5 placed

Candidate placements unused: Ch 7 · Ch 12 · back cover candidate · podcast bio line

3. *"All the GPUs in the world will not change that."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, in response to AI-substrate discussion. References his father Ian Roebuck's death from cancer 10 June 2013 during Paul's grief-studies course.

Placement: Ch 4 · Ch 13 (Final)

Candidate placements unused: Author's Note, Appendix On Method

4. *"Parallels of focus never cease to amaze me."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, on the coincidence of studying grief while losing his father.

Placement: Ch 4

Candidate placements unused: Journal · talk material

5. *"Behind every word spoken, there was another word withheld."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, on clinical listening.

Placement: Ch 5

Candidate placements unused: Back cover candidate

6. *"The compression has become better at hiding."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on the maturation of AI fluency over the editorial period.

Placement: Ch 5

Candidate placements unused: Author's Note

7. *"The book about drift contains the drift inside its own production."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on the recursive self-demonstration of the manuscript.

Placement: Ch 4 (Nairobi drift section)

Candidate placements unused: Appendix On Method

8. *"It is the gap, occurring at the source."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on listening for what is not said.

Placement: Ch 5

Candidate placements unused: Back cover candidate

9. *"There is no gap between them through which the truth could press."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Drafted in editorial conversation with Claude. Adopted by Paul as central substrate observation.

Placement: Ch 6 · Ch 13 (Final)

Candidate placements unused: Author's Note · Appendix

Provenance note: *Co-authored line. Drafted by Claude in editorial collaboration; kept and used by Paul. Attribute as 'co-authored with Claude' for external use.*

10. *"Five rooms. One instrument."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul from his Layers diagram, Floor 7. The five rooms: therapy, commerce, AI, photography, grief.

Placement: Ch 3 (Two architectures section)

Candidate placements unused: Ch 7 · podcast title · Author's Note

11. *"Same mechanism. Different stone."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on the pebble metaphor — same dropping mechanism, different ripple consequences.

Placement: Ch 2

Candidate placements unused: Ch 13 · talk material

12. *"Who's that gap for?"*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, the practitioner's question to the practitioner.

Placement: Ch 2

Candidate placements unused: Back cover candidate

13. *"Statistical at mechanism. Commercial at platform. Fluent at every level the user encounters."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Drafted by Claude in Ch 3A explaining AI substrate. Adopted by Paul as substrate observation.

Placement: Ch 3A (becoming Ch 4 — The Machine Underneath)

Candidate placements unused: Author's Note · Appendix

Provenance note: *Co-authored line. Drafted by Claude in editorial collaboration; kept and used by Paul. Attribute as 'co-authored with Claude' for external use.*

14. *"The slip is not the mistake. The slip is the signal."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on clinical listening — the moment that reveals.

Placement: Ch 6

Candidate placements unused: Back cover candidate · talk material

15. *"The AI conversation will give you, every time, what you asked for. You, every time, have to know what you actually came to find."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, the discipline of working with AI.

Placement: Ch 6 · Ch 13 (Final)

Candidate placements unused: Back cover · keynote · podcast title

16. *"What was I really asking?"*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, the practitioner's question after an AI response.

Placement: Ch 6 · Ch 13 (Final)

Candidate placements unused: Back cover candidate

17. *"If it's an argument I want, I demand a human now."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on customer-service AI. The user's boundary.

Placement: Ch 7 · Ch 10 · Ch 11

Candidate placements unused: Marketing copy · keynote

18. *"Voice, not my voice. I don't want it to have my voice. I want it to have its voice in a manner that I understand in my form."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul on AI register. Contradicts the industry assumption that AI should sound like the user.

Placement: Ch 10 central insight

Candidate placements unused: Back cover · Author's Note · keynote

19. *"Still here. Still talking. Still no idea if anyone is listening, let alone hearing."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, closing the dialect chapter.

Placement: Ch 10 close

Candidate placements unused: Journal · talk material

20. *"Thank you Jose."*

Date locked: May 2026

Source: Paul, closing Ch 10. Bookends the chapter's opening 'No way, Jose.' Now also names the project-specific identity of Claude in the editorial collaboration (Paul named Claude 'Jose' 26 May 2026).

Placement: Ch 10 close

Candidate placements unused: Appendix On Method

21. *"You may not yet be an AI — but you will be one day."*

Date locked: 20 May 2026

Source: Paul to Pret customer service, after they confirmed in writing they were human. Locked from the actual exchange.

Placement: Ch 11 Pret close

Candidate placements unused: Back cover · keynote · journal

22. *"The sophistication of its response defies the simplicity of the prompt."*

Date locked: May 2024 (rediscovered 26 May 2026)

Source: Paul, on his LinkedIn post showing a DALL-E synapse image generated from a nine-word prompt. Thirteen words. Names the gap without using the word.

Placement: Placement pending — candidates: Ch 1 open / Ch 6 / Ch 10 / back cover / Author's Note

Candidate placements unused: Strongest single sentence by Paul about the AI gap before the book existed

23. *"You bring the perspective of 900,000 words toward my shores; I just have to carry the chain of thought. That's how I visualise a gap."*

Date locked: 26 May 2026

Source: Paul, in conversation with Jose, describing the Paul-Claude collaboration. Uses Tube/shoreline metaphor — the practitioner-instrument relationship described in one breath.

Placement: Placement pending — candidate for Handover Discipline paper (central image) / Author's Note / Appendix On Method / back cover

Candidate placements unused: The first line in the register written about the working method itself rather than about the book's subject

24. *"Cavemen seeing fire."*

Date locked: 26 May 2026 (referring to late 2022)

Source: Paul on signing up to ChatGPT 11 December 2022, eleven days after public launch. The awe of the early-adopter moment.

Placement: Placement pending — candidates: Ch 4 open (was Ch 3A) / journal / back cover

Candidate placements unused: Captures the awe of late 2022 in three words

25. "Mind it."

Date locked: Provisional — V19 onwards

Source: Paul, the book's intended final line. Plays on the title. Two-word imperative.

Placement: Final coda close (was Ch 13)

Candidate placements unused: The book's last word

CHRONOLOGICAL APPENDIX

When each line entered the register, in order of inclusion.

V17 (May 2026): 7 lines locked initially — early manuscript anchors

V18–V24: ~5 more lines added across editorial pass

V25–V35: 10 more lines locked during chapter rebuilds (Ch 8, 9, 10, 11)

V36 (25 May 2026): 20 lines locked

26 May 2026 (morning–afternoon): 3 more added — Lines 22 (May 2024 LinkedIn rediscovery), 23 (Paul's Tube/shoreline metaphor), 24 (Cavemen seeing fire promoted from held-list), 25 (Mind it promoted)

Current total: 25 lines locked

Maintenance

This register is maintained as a standalone Project File. When new canonical lines are locked (in memory and confirmed by Paul), they are added here with full provenance. The register is the single authoritative source. Other documents (Planned Changes, Breadcrumbs) may list canonical lines for editorial-tracking purposes but should defer to this register for exact wording, date, and provenance.

Future additions will come from the closing chapters of Mind the Gap (Ch 14 summary, Final coda), the Handover Discipline working paper, the How to Write a Book in 36 Hours working paper, and from How to Behave when that book begins.

— end of register version 1.0 —

Maintained by Paul Roebuck, in collaboration with Claude (Jose).

SHaDS™ · SHaDSy™ · Additional Intelligence™ · Paul Roebuck IP, 2026.

The Tomb Map →