Honda
GEAR UP FOR SPRING EVENT

THE 2004 ACCORD DX SE
$25,600* MSRP
The Special Edition Accord includes five-spoke alloy wheels, a 6-disc in-dash CD player, fog lights, Special Edition Badging plus 160 hp, 2.4 litre i-VTEC™ engine, 5-speed auto, A/C, driver and front passenger airbags and more. It made Car and Driver's 10Best list 7 years in a row.
$278
48
$2246 IN NO CHARGE FEATURES
NHTSA

2004 PILOT GRANITE
ALL NEW MODEL
$38,800* MSRP
You'll love driving it. You'll love looking at it. Includes a 240 hp, 3.5 litre, 24-valve V6 VTEC™ engine, as well as four-wheel drive and 5-speed auto. Plus features unique to the Granite like sporty alloy wheels, fender flares, front bumper guard, fog lights, side step bars and roof rails with a crossbar.
$448
NHTSA

2004 ODYSSEY LX
$32,200* MSRP
Feel the surge of a 240 hp, 3.5 litre, 24-valve V6 VTEC™ engine. You'll also get front and rear A/C and feel the safety of a traction control system, plus much more.
$278
3.8
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THINK PRICE IS ALL THAT MATTERS? THINK AGAIN.

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2004 SPECIAL EDITION CIVIC
Honda CIVIC
$16,800 MSRP
The Special Edition Civic includes air conditioning with micron air filter, CD player, power locks and Special Edition Badge, plus 115 hp, 1.7 litre engine, driver and front passenger dual-stage front airbags, 5-speed manual and more.
$188*
Per month for 48 months with $2,351 down. Freight and P.D.E. included. $0 security deposit.
3.8
Lease and purchase financing available on the 2004 Civic
INCLUDES $1700 IN NO CHARGE FEATURES
NHTSA
Dual 5-Star safety rating for frontal impacts.*
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Now don't forget to read this stuff, it's important too. Lease and finance offers are available, on approved credit, only through Honda Canada Finance Inc., until May 31, 2004. Lease payments shown are for 48 months and include $1,095/$1,240/$1,240/$1,010 for freight and P.D.E. with 96,000 km allowance (12¢/km exceeding 96,000 km applies). *Based on a new 2004 Special Edition Accord Sedan DX, Automatic/Pilot Granite, 5-speed Automatic/Odyssey LX/Special Edition Civic Sedan, 5-speed Manual/(model CM5614PL-SE package/YF1814E/RL1854PK/ES1534P7X) $278/$448/$278/$188 per month for 48 months. A.L.R. 4.8%/5.0%/2.2%/3.8% (total lease obligation of $17,515/$27,217/$15,548/$11,375). Down payment or equivalent trade of $4,171/$5,713/$6,204/$2,351 (zero down payment plans available), plus first monthly payment required. Option to purchase at lease end for $12,544/$19,012/$15,776/$8,232 plus taxes. **MSRP does not include freight and P.D.E ($1,095/$1,240/$1,240/$1,010). *3.8%/4.8% conventional financing is available on all new, in-stock 2004 Civic Sedans, Coupes(Offer excludes 2004 Civic Hybrid and SiR) and Odyssey/Accord Sedans and Coupes for 24, 36, 48, and 60 month terms. Financing example: $20,000 at 3.8%/4.8% per annum equals $366.53/$375.59 per month for 60 months. C.O.B. is $1,991.80/$2,535.40 for a total obligation of $21,991.80/$22,535.40. Down payment may be required. ‡Calculation for $2,246 in no charge features is $2,946 - based on dealer installed accessory pricing. Additional charge to consumer is only $700. Savings to consumer is $2,246. ‡‡Calculation for $1,700 in no charge features is: Civic DX Coupe/Sedan with manual transmission is $16,100. Value of additional SE features is $2,403 - based on dealer installed accessory pricing. Additional charge to consumer is only $700. Savings to consumer is $1,703. ***Taxes, licence, insurance, registration and maintenance fees are additional. Dealer may sell/lease for less. †See Car and Driver magazine January 2004. ††See Car and Driver magazine March 2004. †††Source: Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada. *Visit www.nhtsa.gov for details. See your neighbourhood Ontario Honda dealer for details.

Expect the absolute worst and you'll usually be happy

On the loose
with MURRAY TOWNSEND

The other day I stepped on my glasses case.

That wouldn't have been so bad had the glasses not been inside. "This is not good," I thought to myself, while uttering something considerably nastier.

I feared the worst as I gingerly pried open the crushed case and peered inside. The glasses were okay.

So, I was happy. Happy because I expected the glasses to be broken and they weren't.

You see how that works? If you keep your optimism at a minimum, you will rarely be disappointed. Anything you get is a bonus.

Let's say you were expecting a $1 million inheritance, and you only got $100,000, You'd be awfully disappointed, but if you were expecting $10,000 and got the $100,000, you'd be ecstatic. The bottom financial line is the same, but one person is happy and the other isn't.

It's all about expectations versus result.

That's not true for everything of course. Expectations for your own accomplishments should be high. Few people seem to be satisfied with themselves anyway, so having higher goals can help us attain them.

With your kids or employees, you tell them your expectations are high, but keep them low. People fail a high percentage of the time before attaining success, so you should concentrate on building them back up and keeping them on track.

Something you always hear people complain about is how they buy something new and it doesn't work properly. Guess what? That's the norm rather than the exception. If it wasn't, you wouldn't hear those complaints all the time.

You buy something, you expect it to work because you paid good money for it, and that's where our problems come in. You should expect it not to work and prepare in advance what you need to do to have it fixed.

If it does happen to work it's a big bonus, and if it doesn't you're not too disappointed because you expected it.

It's the same when you call somebody or a company to request or complain about something. If you're expecting them to get back to you quickly, or even at all, you're setting yourself up for disappointment. Figure on them not returning your call if you've left a number, and figure on three or four phone calls to get satisfaction, and then figure you're never going to get satisfaction, anyway. If you do, it's bonus time, once again.

This can apply to everything. Perhaps you read this column thinking it was going to be funnier than it is. From now on, don't expect anything to be funny in it. Then if something does strike you as humorous, you'll enjoy it that much more.

That's right, just figure on me being stupid (if you don't already), so then if you happen to like something I write, you'll like me more. You can even say, hey, that guy's pretty smart for an idiot.

You know all this is true. How many times do you go somewhere expecting to have a great time, and you don't? And how many times do you go somewhere expecting to have a bad time, and you have a good time?

Just set your mind to it. Things never work out as well as you expect or think they should. Never.

Until now.

With your new attitude adjustment, you don't expect anything good to happen so things will always be better than you thought they'd be, and you can live a much happier life.

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SMOKING
what's the point?
Someday, you'll be offered a cigarette or be tempted to smoke.
Before you start, think about it: every drag you take screws up your body.
Smoking can cause permanent damage to your body.
Once a person starts, it becomes extremely tough to quit.
And did we mention all that cash you'll be blowing in the process?
So, if you're tempted to start, ask yourself, "What's the point?"
This message brought to you by:
The Canadian Champion