

Forget AI — a finger forecast will be fine!

A FEW years ago we holidayed in Igls, a pretty little village in the Austrian Tyrol.

It's at the foot of the Patscherkofel mountain, which is more than 2,000m high, with a rich sporting history — it was where Franz Klammer won downhill gold at the 1976 Winter Olympics. One day we caught the cable car to enjoy the hiking trails and the amazing alpine views. During the day, the weather deteriorated. Dense clouds darkened the heavens, with bright flashes of lightning zipping across the afternoon sky, together with heavy rain and strong, gusty winds. We

hurried back to the top cable car, only to find it had been temporarily suspended because the poor weather threatened passenger safety. On the summit of Patscherkofel is a large weather station with myriad scientific instruments. A meteorologist emerged and walked to the edge of the peak, licked his index finger and lifted it into the air. Then, turning towards us, he put ten fingers in the air and shouted: 'Ten minutes.' Sure enough, ten minutes later we were safely descending in a cable car. Who needs AI to forecast weather conditions!

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Intern 2024