

Annotation: Body relaxation

Annotation: Neutral body position and hand location

Hi everybody.

Annotation: Pitch emphasis (on “efficient”)

Today we're going to be talking about our new method for the efficient completion of Super Mario Brothers Stage 8-2 by utilizing a Bullet Bill.

Annotation: Small gesture to emphasize meaning/tone

Annotation: Tone adjustment for emotion

As we have all heard by now, Princess Peach has been kidnapped and it's up to us to find ways that we can help Mario be able to reach her as quickly as possible. Princess Peach is located at the last stage, the end of 8-4. Mario needs to get through all eight worlds in order to save her. Luckily, by some use of warp pipes, Mario only needs to complete these eight stages.

Annotation: Gesture to indicate transition

Today, we're going to be looking specifically at stage 8-2 and where we can save Mario a little bit of time.

Annotation: Tone change to indicate explanation

So when we're talking about completing a stage, what do we actually mean by that? There are four things Mario needs to do in order to complete a stage.

Annotation: Pitch for enumeration/recapture attention

First, Mario needs to grab onto the bottom of the flagpole. Whether that's through sliding from the top or grabbing at the bottom through some other method, anything will work.

Annotation: Small pause to create separation

Second, Mario needs to walk until he hits a solid block. You may not know this, but this block there is actually solid. That's what tells Mario that he needs to go into the castle. Third, Mario will need to enter the castle. And last, Mario will receive his points and then he'll be allowed to move to the next stage.

Annotation: Rhetorical question + matching tone

What if I told you that Mario doesn't actually need to do all four of these? Indeed, we found through our research that Mario actually does not need to enter the castle in order to complete a

stage. So that begs the question: if Mario doesn't need to enter the castle, then can we do these things in a different way? We can.

Annotation: Rhythm for indicating importance

In fact, let's see if we can use this solid block right here to complete the stage. Through careful examination of what resources Mario had available, we found help through an unlikely friend: the Bullet Bill.

As you can see in these diagrams, by waiting for the Bullet Bill, we can use it to push Mario into the bottom of the flagpole. Mario not only grabs the flagpole, but then bumps into the block, satisfying all conditions to complete the stage. This may raise some questions though. We do need to wait for the Bullet Bill to get there in order to use this method. Is this actually any faster?

We ran several experiments with the help of Luigi. You can see Luigi here is going to be doing the traditional method while Mario is using our new method. Luigi grabs onto the flagpole while Mario is still waiting, and then he slides to the bottom, starts walking, and Mario finishes the stage.

Annotation: Pauses and volume for emphasis of non-obvious importance

This method is actually 0.7 seconds faster than normal. Crucial time for saving Princess Peach. Beyond 8-2, we have hopes that this strategy will be helpful to help Mario in many places.

Annotation: Pausing to think, okay with silence

He – There aren't bullet bills everywhere to help Mario, but what there are are always blocks. If we could find some way to get Mario to clip into the bottom of the block, he could still do the same idea of grabbing the pole and walking into the block at the same time to complete the stage. Work on this is ongoing, but it has huge implications for how efficiently Mario can save our Princess. Thank you.