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Just Phatic

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(Just) Phatic

Josh Matthews

The way I offer just
to the public is the
way I disperse like and
so and you know
as sprinklers water
lawns during
thunderstorms.
Just is another sixteenth
note in the drum
solo of speech and I
do not play like Buddy
Rich but like the little
kid next door who
whacks his starter
kit like a running
lawnmower left over a
rabbit warren.

Sometimes just serves
as a way to downplay
a statement you might
just find offensive. Just
also articulates an effect where I
may not finish a
flourish because I do
not know how to
solo, as in a moment
where the terrible news is
told of the surprise sinkhole or
of the thousand-year flood
event and so I pick up my
my sticks, whirling and
splattering my uneven notes
on practice pads that
echo back the
same bladed
rhythms of
That is just …
… That is just …
… … That is only just …