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Quiz – November 9, 2006

Does the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^{-k}$ converge? Explain **very thoroughly**.

Answer: Recall that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^k = e$. It follows that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^{-k} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^k} = \frac{1}{e}.$$

In other words, the individual terms of this series go to something other than zero. The series **DIVERGES** by the Individual Term Test for Divergence.