A pair of white reversible gloves is shown against a red background. The gloves are positioned with palms facing each other, fingers slightly spread. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The gloves appear to be made of a soft, possibly nitrile or latex material, with visible stitching around the wrists and fingers.

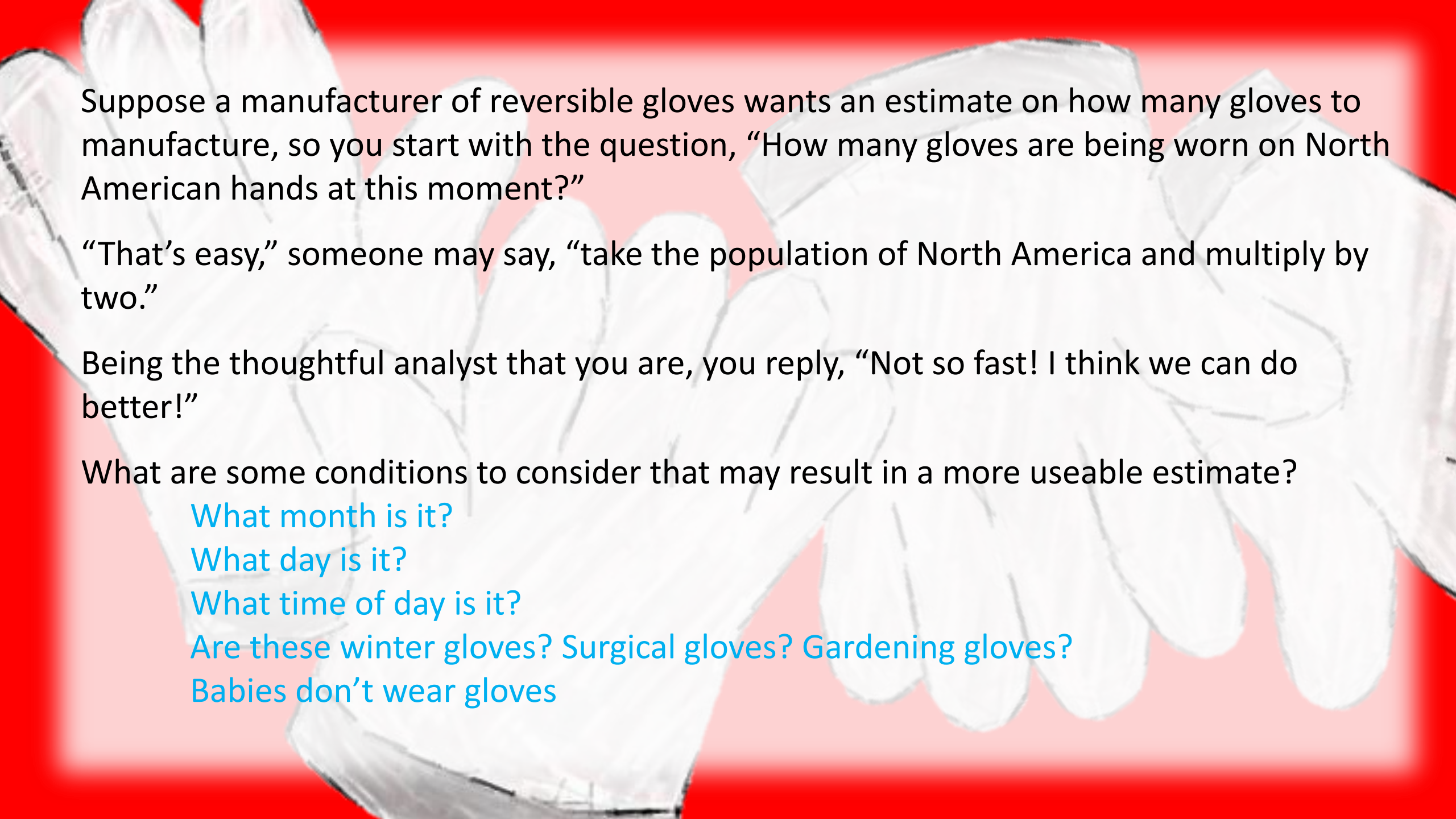
We rarely have the luxury of collecting and processing all the information that results in an accurate prediction. That's why good estimation skills are so valuable. Manufacturers use estimates to determine how many of a particular product they should produce. Although estimates are characteristically inaccurate, careful analysis make some estimates more useable than others.

Suppose a manufacturer of reversible gloves wants an estimate on how many gloves to manufacture, so you start with the question, "How many gloves are being worn on North American hands at this moment?"

"That's easy," someone may say, "take the population of North America and multiply by two."

Being the thoughtful analyst that you are, you reply, "Not so fast! I think we can do better!"

What are some conditions to consider that may result in a more useable estimate?

A pair of white, textured gloves is shown against a solid red background. The gloves are positioned as if they are being held out, with the fingers slightly spread. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the material.

Suppose a manufacturer of reversible gloves wants an estimate on how many gloves to manufacture, so you start with the question, “How many gloves are being worn on North American hands at this moment?”

“That’s easy,” someone may say, “take the population of North America and multiply by two.”

Being the thoughtful analyst that you are, you reply, “Not so fast! I think we can do better!”

What are some conditions to consider that may result in a more useable estimate?

What month is it?

What day is it?

What time of day is it?

Are these winter gloves? Surgical gloves? Gardening gloves?

Babies don’t wear gloves