Great Quotations

"I just bought a Mac to help me design the next Cray."
   - Seymoure Cray (1925-1996) when he was informed that Apple Inc. had recently bought a Cray supercomputer to help them design the next Mac.

"Now, now my good man, this is no time for making enemies."
   - Voltaire (1694-1778) on his deathbed in response to a priest asking that he renounce Satan.

"God gave men both a penis and a brain, but unfortunately not enough blood supply to run both at the same time."
   - Robin Williams, commenting on the Clinton/Lewinsky affair

"Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something."
   - last words of Pancho Villa (1877-1923)

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know."
   - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."
   - Bill Gates (1955-), in 1981

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."
   - Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"If Stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?" "
   - Will Rogers (1879-1935)

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it."
   - Alan Kay

"Copy from one, it's plagiarism; copy from two, it's research."
   - Wilson Mizner (1876-1933)

"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying."
   - Woody Allen (1935-)

"Anything that is too stupid to be spoken is sung."
      - Voltaire (1694-1778)

"I am not young enough to know everything."
      - Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

"Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names."
      - John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."
      - Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)

"There are two ways of constructing a software design; one way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult."
      - C. A. R. Hoare

"Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler."
      - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. The opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth."
      - Niels Bohr (1885-1962)

"Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you walk into an open sewer and die."
      - Mel Brooks

"God, please save me from your followers!"
      - Bumper Sticker

"While we are postponing, life speeds by."
      - Seneca (3BC - 65AD)

"Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together."
      - Georg Lichtenberg (1742-1799)

"I do not consider it an insult, but rather a compliment to be called an agnostic. I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure -- that is all that agnosticism means."
- Clarence Darrow, Scopes trial, 1925.

"I have often regretted my speech, never my silence."
- Xenocrates (396-314 B.C.)

"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident."
- Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

"Be nice to people on your way up because you meet them on your way down."
- Jimmy Durante

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."
- Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true."
- James Branch Cabell

"We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time."
- Vince Lombardi

"The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'."
- unknown

"C makes it easy to shoot yourself in the foot; C++ makes it harder, but when you do, it blows away your whole leg."
- Bjarne Stroustrup

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is."
- Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use."
- Galileo Galilei

"Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo."
    - H. G. Wells (1866-1946)

MURPHY'S LAWS

1. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
2. Everything takes longer than you think.
3. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.
4. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong. Corollary: If there is a worse time for something to go wrong, it will happen then.
5. If anything simply cannot go wrong, it will anyway.
6. If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, then a fifth way, unprepared for, will promptly develop.
7. Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.
8. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
9. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
10. Mother nature is a bitch.
11. It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.
12. Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first.
13. Every solution breeds new problems.

Murphy's Law of Research
    Enough research will tend to support your theory.
Murphy's Law of Copiers
    The legibility of a copy is inversely proportional to its importance.
Murphy's Law of the Open Road:
    When there is a very long road upon which there is a one-way bridge placed at random, and there are only two cars on that road, it follows that: (1) the two cars are going in opposite directions, and (2) they will always meet at the bridge.
Murphy's Law of Thermodynamics
    Things get worse under pressure.
The Murphy Philosophy
    Smile . . . tomorrow will be worse.
Quantization Revision of Murphy's Laws
    Everything goes wrong all at once.
Murphy's Constant
    Matter will be damaged in direct proportion to its value

Murphy's Corollaries

Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious

Law of the Perversity of Nature (Mrs. Murphy's Corollary):

> You cannot successfully determine beforehand which side of the bread to butter.

Corollary (Jenning):

> The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.

Commentaries

Hill's Commentaries on Murphy's Laws

1. If we lose much by having things go wrong, take all possible care.
2. If we have nothing to lose by change, relax.
3. If we have everything to gain by change, relax.
4. If it doesn't matter, it does not matter.

O'Toole's Commentary

> Murphy was an optimist.

NBC's Addendum to Murphy's Law

You never run out of things that can go wrong.

Murphy's Military Laws

1. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
2. No battle plan ever survives contact with the enemy.
3. Friendly fire ain't.
4. The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map.
5. The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
6. The buddy system is essential to your survival; it gives the enemy somebody else to shoot at.
7. The further you are in advance of your own positions, the more likely your artillery will shoot short.
8. Incoming fire has the right of way.
9. If your advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
10. The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small.
11. If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.
12. The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.
13. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
14. There is nothing more satisfying that having someone take a shot at you, and miss.
15. Don't be conspicuous. In the combat zone, it draws fire. Out of the combat zone, it draws sergeants.
16. If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.

Murphy's Technology Laws

1. You can never tell which way the train went by looking at the track.
2. Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.
3. Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition.
4. Technology is dominated by those who manage what they do not understand.
5. If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.
6. The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm.
7. The attention span of a computer is only as long as it electrical cord.
8. An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.
9. Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch to be sure.
10. All great discoveries are made by mistake.
11. Always draw your curves, then plot your reading.
12. Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget.
13. All's well that ends.
14. A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost.
15. The first myth of management is that it exists.
16. A failure will not appear till a unit has passed final inspection.
17. New systems generate new problems.
18. To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.
19. We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything.
20. Any given program, when running, is obsolete.
21. Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.
22. A computer makes as many mistakes in two seconds as 20 men working 20 years make.
23. The faster a computer is, the faster it will reach a crashed state.
24. Nothing motivates a man more than to see his boss putting in an honest day's work.
25. Some people manage by the book, even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book.
26. The primary function of the design engineer is to make things difficult for the fabricator and impossible for the serviceman.
27. To spot the expert, pick the one who predicts the job will take the longest and cost the most.
28. After all is said and done, a hell of a lot more is said than done.
29. Any circuit design must contain at least one part which is obsolete, two parts which are unobtainable and three parts which are still under development.
30. A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.
31. If mathematically you end up with the incorrect answer, try multiplying by the page number.

32. Computers are unreliable, but humans are even more unreliable. Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable.
33. Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might go into a "Pearl Harbor File."
34. Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of pressure, temperature, volume, humidity, and other variables the organism will do as it damn well pleases.
35. If you can't understand it, it is intuitively obvious.
36. The more cordial the buyer's secretary, the greater the odds that the competition already has the order.
37. In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totalled correctly after 4:30 p.m. on Friday. The correct total will become self-evident at 8:15 a.m. on Monday.
38. Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.
39. All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door.
40. The only perfect science is hind-sight.
41. Work smarder and not harder and be careful of yor speling.
42. If it's not in the computer, it doesn't exist.
43. If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.
44. When all else fails, read the instructions.
45. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.
46. Everything that goes up must come down.
47. Any instrument when dropped will roll into the least accessible corner.
48. Any simple theory will be worded in the most complicated way.
49. Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.
50. The degree of technical competence is inversely proportional to the level of management.
51. Any attempt to print Murphy's laws will jam the printer.