

My favorite quotes about Statistics

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1. “All models are wrong; but some are useful.”
~ George E.P. Box
2. “Nothing works all the time. That’s the first theorem in Statistics.”
~ Bin Yu
3. “Statisticians, like artists, have the bad habit of falling in love with their models.”
~ George E.P. Box
4. “Statistics is the grammar of science.”
~ Karl Pearson
5. “Those who ignore Statistics are condemned to reinvent it.”
~ Bradley Efron
6. “A statistical analysis, properly conducted, is a delicate dissection of uncertainties, a surgery of suppositions.”
~ M.J. Moroney
7. “Statistics’ real contribution to society is primarily moral, not technical.”
~ Steve Vardeman and Max Morris
8. “The question of whether machines can think is about as relevant as the question of whether submarines can swim.”
~ Edsger W. Dijkstra
9. “I’m into both good theory and good practice. The distinction is not between theory and practice; it’s between good and bad.”
~ Bin Yu
10. “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and Statistics.”
~ Mark Twain
11. “It is the mark of a truly intelligent person to be moved by Statistics.”
~ George Bernard Shaw

12. “If your experiment needs a statistician, you need a better experiment.”
~ Ernest Rutherford
13. “The confidence interval can exclude 0, in which case I can submit it to a really good journal, or it can include 0, in which case I can look really hard and throw out some bad data points.”
~ Andrew Gelman
14. “In statistics it’s enough for our results to be cool. In psychology they’re supposed to be correct. In economics they’re supposed to be correct and consistent with your ideology.”
~ Andrew Gelman
15. “As you know from teaching introductory statistics, 30 is infinity.”
~ Andrew Gelman
16. “Inference is normal science. Model-checking is revolutionary science.”
~ Andrew Gelman
17. “We could call Bayesian data analysis “*statistics using conditional probability*”, but that wouldn’t put the butts in the seats.”
~ Andrew Gelman

...and the best book intro ever...

“Ludwig Boltzmann, who spent much of his life studying statistical mechanics, died in 1906, by his own hand. Paul Ehrenfest, carrying on the work, died similarly in 1933. Now it is our turn to study statistical mechanics.”

~ David Goodstein, *States of Matter*