What is Statistics?

from "The Cartoon Guide to Statistics",by Larry Gonick, Woollcott Smith

MOST OF US LIVE COMFORTABLY WITH SOME LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY.
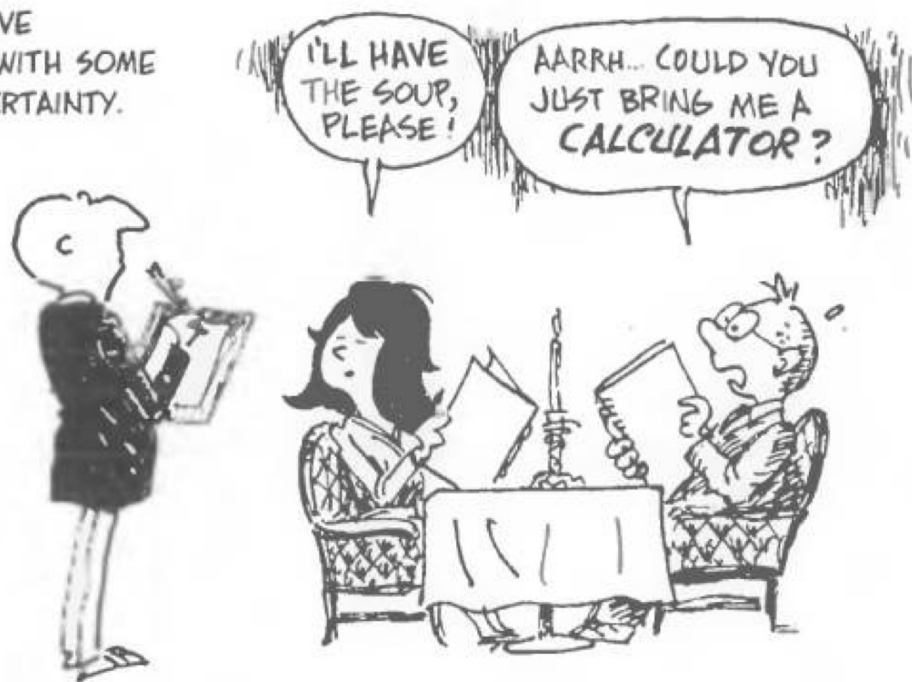
WHAT MAKES STATISTICS UNIQUE IS ITS ABILITY TO *QUANTIFY* UNCERTAINTY, TO MAKE IT PRECISE. THIS ALLOWS STATISTICIANS TO MAKE *CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS*, WITH COMPLETE ASSURANCE—ABOUT THEIR LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY!

Data analysis

THE GATHERING, DISPLAY, AND SUMMARY OF DATA;

Probability

THE LAWS OF CHANCE, IN AND OUT OF THE CASINO;

Statistical inference

THE SCIENCE OF DRAWING STATISTICAL CONCLUSIONS FROM SPECIFIC DATA, USING A KNOWLEDGE OF PROBABILITY.

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

from "The Cartoon Guide to Statistics",by Larry Gonick, Woollcott Smith

FINALLY, IN DISCUSSING STATISTICS, IT'S HARD TO AVOID MENTIONING ONE OTHER THING: THE WIDESPREAD *MISTRUST* OF STATISTICS IN THE WORLD TODAY. EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT "LYING WITH STATISTICS," WHILE GOOD STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND IN DAILY LIFE. WHAT'S ONE TO DO?

3 OUT OF 4 DOCTORS RECOMMEND NOT BELIEVING ANY STATEMENT BEGINNING .. WITH "3 OUT OF 4 DOCTORS...

from "The Cartoon Guide to Statistics",by Larry Gonick, Woollcott Smith