

## **The Best 50 of Murphy's Law**

**You can never tell which way the train went by looking at the track.**

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**Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.**

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**Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition.**

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**Technology is dominated by those who manage what they do not understand.**

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**If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.**

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**The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm.**

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**The attention span of a computer is only as long as its electrical cord.**

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**An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.**

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**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.**

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**All great discoveries are made by mistake.**

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**Always draw your curves, then plot your reading.**

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**Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget.**

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**All's well that ends.**

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**A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost.**

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**The first myth of management is that it exists.**

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**A failure will not appear till a unit has passed final inspection.**

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**New systems generate new problems.**

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**To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.**

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**We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything.**

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**Any given program, when running, is obsolete.**

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**Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.**

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**A computer makes as many mistakes in two seconds as 20 men working 20 years make.**

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**The faster a computer is, the faster it will reach a crashed state.**

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**Nothing motivates a man more than to see his boss putting in an honest day's work.**

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**Some people manage by the book, even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book.**

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**The primary function of the design engineer is to make things difficult for the fabricator and impossible for the serviceman.**

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**To spot the expert, pick the one who predicts the job will take the longest and cost the most.**

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**After all is said and done, a hell of a lot more is said than done.**

**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.**

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**A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.**

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**If mathematically you end up with the incorrect answer, try multiplying by the page number.**

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**Computers are unreliable, but humans are even more unreliable. Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable.**

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**Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might go into a "Pearl Harbor File."**

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**Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of pressure, temperature, volume, humidity, and other variables the organism will do as it damn well pleases.**

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**If you can't understand it, it is intuitively obvious.**

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**The more cordial the buyer's secretary, the greater the odds that the competition already has the order.**

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**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.**

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**Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.**

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**All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door.**

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**The only perfect science is hind-sight.**

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**Work smarder and not harder and be careful of yor speling.**

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**If it's not in the computer, it doesn't exist.**

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**If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.**

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**When all else fails, read the instructions.**

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**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.**

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**Everything that goes up must come down.**

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**Any instrument when dropped will roll into the least accessible corner.**

**Any simple theory will be worded in the most complicated way.**

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**Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.**

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**The degree of technical competence is inversely proportional to the level of management.**

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**Any attempt to print Murphy's laws will jam the printer.**

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