

This file contains 1752 lines from my private collection on Laws, Principles and Order Quotes. More to follow in due time. Enjoy!

THE SUPERLIST OF FUN LINES AND FAMOUS QUOTATIONS

10th. revised edition

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If anything can go wrong, it will. (Murphy's Law)

The only people who find what they are looking for in life are the fault-finders. (Foster's Law)

Laws, Principles and Order Quotes

2 + 2 approximately equals 5 for large values of 2. (Marshall's Theorem)

2 is not equal to 3 - not even for large values of 2. (Grabel's Law)

3 buses come in your direction but with "special" on them. (Bus Travel Law X)

20% of the customers account for 80% of the turnover. 20% of the components account for 80% of the cost, etc. (Pareto's Law; The 20/80 Law)

80% of the final exam will be based on the one lecture you missed and about the one book you didn't read. (Third Law of Applied Terror)

80% of the final will be on the one lecture you missed and about the one book you didn't read. (First Law of Tests)

90% of everything is crud. (Sturgeon's Law)

186,000 mps: It isn't only a good idea; it's the law!

A 60-day warranty guarantees that the product will self-destruct on the 61st day. (Sintetos' First Law of Consumerism)

A bird in the hand is safer than one overhead. (Newton's Little-Known Seventh Law)

A block grant is a solid mass of money surrounded on all sides by governors. (Baker's First Law of Federal Geometry)

A bureaucracy can outwait anything. (Fox on Bureaucracy)

A bus that has refused to arrive will do so only when the would-be rider has walked to a point so close to the destination that it is no longer worthwhile to board the bus. (Gray's Law for Buses)

A car and a truck approaching each other on an otherwise deserted road will meet at the narrow bridge. (Quigley's Law)

A carelessly planned project takes three times longer to complete than expected; a carefully planned project takes only twice as long. (Second Law of Computerdom according to Golub)

A child will not spill on a dirty floor. (Skoff's Law)

A clean tie attracts the soup of the day. (Diner's Dilemma)

A closed mouth gathers no feet. (Finster's Law)

A committee is twelve men doing the work of one. (Kennedy's Comment on Committees)

A complex system designed from scratch never works and cannot be patched up to make it work. You have to start over, beginning with a working simple system. (Sixteenth Law of Systemantics)

A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works. (Fifteenth Law of Systemantics)

A computer program does what you tell it to do, not what you want it to do. (Greer's Third Law)

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking. (Matz's Maxim)

A crisis is when you can't say "let's forget the whole thing." (Ferguson's Precept)

A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines. (Wright's Law)

A drug is that substance which, when injected into a rat, will produce a scientific report. (Matz's Rule Regarding Medications)

A fail-safe circuit will destroy others. (Klipstein's Fourth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

A failure will not appear till a unit has passed final inspection. (Klipstein's Sixth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

A fat person walks in the middle of the hall. (Livingston's Second Law of Fat)

A few months in the laboratory can save a few hours in the library. (Westheimer's Law)

A flying particle will seek the nearest eye. (Ken's Law)

A fool and his money are soon elected. (Walter's Law of Politics; Walton's Law of Politics)

A fool and your money are soon partners. (Marks' Law of Monetary Equalization)

A fool in a high station is like a man on the top of a high mountain; everything appears small to him and he appears small to everybody. (Match's Maxim)

A free agent is anything but. (Murray's Rule of Basketball; Murray's Third Rule of the Arena)

A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. (Patton's Law)

A good manager can make a decision without enough facts. (Spencer's Second Law of Data)

A good slogan can stop analysis for fifty years. (Wilkie's Law)

A good solution can be successfully applied to almost any problem. (Big Al's Law)

A graphic curve must be plotted before computing any values actually supposed to belong to it. (Prospective Principle)

A large system, produced by expanding the dimensions of a smaller system, does not behave like the smaller system. (The Non-Additivity Theorem of Systems-Behaviour)

A little ignorance can go a long way. (Gerrold's Law)

A lone dime always gets the number nearly right. (The Phone Booth Rule)

A major failure will not occur until after the unit has passed final inspection.

A man with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure. (Segal's Law)

A man without religion is like a fish without a bicycle. (Vique's Law)

A mediocre player will sink to the level of his or her opposition. (Lavia's Law of Tennis)

A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost. (Gourd's Axiom)

A misplaced decimal point will always end up where it will do the greatest damage.

A motion to adjourn is always in order. (Parker's Rule of Parliamentary Procedure)

A motor will rotate in the wrong direction. (Klipstein's Third Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

A patent application will be preceded by one week by a similar application made by an independent worker. (Klipstein's First Law Applied to General Engineering)

A penny saved is still a penny. (Murphy's Eighteenth Law)

A perfect manager can operate in perfect ignorance. (Spencer's Third Law of Data)

A physician's ability is inversely proportional to his availability. (Telesco's Second Law of Nursing)

A pipe gives a wise man time to think and a fool something to stick in his mouth. (Trischmann's Paradox)

A prerequisite for a desired course will be offered only during the semester following the desired course. (Third Law of Class Scheduling)

A proliferation of new laws creates a proliferation of new loopholes. (Cooper's Metalaw)

A purchased component or instrument will meet its specs long enough, and only long enough, to pass incoming inspection. (Klipstein's Seventh Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

A quarter-ounce of chocolate = four pounds of fat. (Slick's Second Law of the Universe)

A quartz oscillator oscillates at a frequency off the rated one by a minimum of 25% if it does oscillate at all. (Vuilleumier's Sixth Law)

A red light means the next six cars may go through the intersection. (Rules for driving in New York)

A short queue outside a building becomes a long queue inside. (Vile's Fifth Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

A shortcut is the longest distance between two points. (Issawi's Path of Progress)

A shortcut is the longest path between two points.

A Smith and Wesson beats four aces. (Supplement to Canada Bill Jones's Motto)

A "sucking chest wound" is nature's way of telling you to slow down. (Murphy's Twelfth Rule of combat)

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first. (Klipstein's Fifth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

A work project expands to fill the space available. (The Einstein Extension of Parkinson's Law)

A writer must not shift your point of view. (William Safire's 7th Rule for Writers)

Access holes will be 1/2" too small. (Smith's Law of Computer Repair)

Add yours. (Pavlu's Second Rule for Economy in Research)

Adding manpower to a late project only makes it later.

Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later. (Brook's Law)

After adding two weeks to the schedule for unexpected delays, add two more for the unexpected, unexpected delays. (Third Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

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

After an access cover has been secured by 16 hold-down screws, it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted. (de la Lastra's Corollary; Klipstein's Ninth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

After an instrument has been assembled, extra components will be found on the bench. (Klipstein's Tenth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

After painstaking and careful analysis of a sample, you are always told that it is the wrong sample and doesn't apply to the problem. (Fourth Law of Revision)

After the last of 16 mounting screws has been removed from an access cover, it will be discovered that the wrong access cover has been removed. (de la Lastra's Law; Klipstein's Eighth Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

After the solution screws up the project, all those who initially endorsed it will say, 'I wish I had voiced my reservations at the time'. (Mitchell's Third Law of Committology)

After things have gone from bad to worse, the cycle will repeat itself. (Farnsdick's Corollary to the Fifth Corollary)

All break downs occur on the plumber's day off. (First Corollary to Yeager's Law)

All conversations with a potato should be conducted in private. (Wilner's Observation)

All delivery promises must be multiplied by a factor of 2.0. (The Eighth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

All diagnostics are fatal.

All Finagle Laws may be bypassed by learning the simple art of doing without thinking. Wingo's Axiom

All good management is the expression of one great idea. (Second Truth of Management)

All great discoveries are made by mistake. (Young's Law)

All great discoveries are made by mistake. The greater the funding, the longer it takes to make the mistake. (Corollary to Young's Law)

All inanimate objects can move just enough to get in your way. (Young's Law of Inanimate Mobility)

All laws are basically false. (Larkinson's Law)

All laws are simulations of reality. (Lilly's Metalaw)

All laws, whether good, bad or indifferent, must be obeyed to the letter. (Les Miserables Metalaw)

All machines are amplifiers. (Cooper's Law)

All obvious theorems are true. (Pommersheim's Principle)

All papers after the top are upside down or backwards, until you right the pile. Then the process repeats. (Vile's Law of Grading Papers)

All probabilities are 50%. Either a thing will happen or it won't. (Colvard's Logical Premise)

All probabilities are 50%. Either a thing will happen or it won't. Likelihoods, however, are 90% against you. (Grelb's Commentary on Colvard's Logical Premise)

All probabilities are 50%. Either a thing will happen or it won't. This is especially true when dealing with someone you're attracted to. (Colvard's Unconscionable Commentary to His Logical Premise)

All systems are infinitely complex. (The Fourth Fundamental Postulate of Advanced Systems Theory)

All the cookies are not in the jar. (Murphy's Thirty-fifth Law)

All the easy problems have been solved. (Kinkler's Second Law)

All the good ones are taken. (Harris's Lament)

All the IVs are at the other end of the hall. (Telesco's First Law of Nursing)

All the postmasters in small towns read all the postcards. (Mencken and Nathan's Second Law of The Average American)

All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door.

All things being equal, a fat person uses more soap than a thin one. (Murphy's Thirty-seventh Law) (Schmidt's Observation)

All things being equal, you lose. (Todd's First Law)

All things being in your favor, you still lose. (Corollary to Todd's First Law)

All things considered, life is 9 to 5 against. (Nick the Greek's Law of Life)

All trails have more uphill sections than they have level or downhill sections. (Shedenhelm's Law of Backpacking)

All true theorems are obvious. (Keane's Criterion)

All warranty clauses expires upon bill payment. (Gordon's Warranty Law)

All's well that ends.

Almost anything is easier to get into than out of. (Allen's Law)

Almost anything is easier to get into than to get out of. (Allen's Law)

Almost everything in life is easier to get into than out of. (Agnes' Law) (Murphy's Thirty-second Law)

Always draw your curves first, then plot your data.

Always draw your curves, then plot your reading. (Finagle's Third Rule)

Always hire a rich attorney (Goldenstern's First Rule)

Always keep a record of data - it indicates you've been working. (Finagle's Second Rule)

Always keep the office door closed. This puts visitors on the defensive and also makes it look as if you are always in an important conference. (Spark's Ninth Rule for the Project Manager)

Always leave room to add an explanation if it doesn't work out. (The Rule of the Way Out)

Always look for a second right answer. (Third Creative Rule of The Thumb)

Always pick on the correct idiom. (William Safire's 17th Rule for Writers)

Always remember that you are absolutely unique, just like everyone else. (Meade's Maxim)

Ambiguity is invariant. (Hartz's Uncertainty Principle)

Among economists, the real world is often a special case. (Horngren's Observation)

An alcoholic is a person who drinks more than his own physician. (Barach's Rule)

An answer of 50 percent will suffice for the 40-60 range. (Dudenhofer's Corollary to LaCombe's Rule of Percentages)

An easily understood, workable falsehood is more useful than a complex, incomprehensible truth. (Murphy's Nineteenth Law; Thumb's Second Postulate)

An error in the premise will appear in the conclusion. (Baxter's Law)

An expert is a person who avoids the small errors while sweeping on to the grand fallacy. (Weinberg's Corollary)

An expert is anyone from out of town. (Mars' Rule)

An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing. (Weber's Definition)

An important reason for an executive's existence is to make sensible exceptions to policy. (Fox's Third Rule on Decisiveness)

An informant who never produces misinformation is too deviant to be trusted. (Jordan's Law)

An object at rest will always be in the wrong place.

An object at rest will be in the wrong place. (Gerrold's Second Law of Infernal Dynamics)

An object in motion will always be headed in the wrong direction.

An object in motion will be heading in the wrong direction. (Gerrold's First Law of Infernal Dynamics)

An object or bit of information most needed will be the least available. (Second Snafu Equation)

An object will fall so as to do the most damage. (Law of Selective Gravity)

An official wants to multiply subordinates, not rivals. (Parkinson's First Axiom)

An optimist believes we live in the best of all possible worlds. A pessimist fears this is true. (The Cardinal Conundrum)

An ounce of application is worth a ton of abstraction. (Booker's Law)

An ounce of image is worth a pound of performance. (Peter's Placebo)

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys. (Van Roy's Law)

Anarchy is against the law.

And don't start a sentence with a conjunction. (William Safire's 8th Rule for Writers)

Any argument carried far enough will end up in semantics. (Hartz's Law of Rhetoric)

Any argument worth making within the bureaucracy must be capable of being expressed in a simple declarative sentence that is obviously true once stated. (McNaughton's Rule)

Any bureaucracy reorganized to enhance efficiency is immediately indistinguishable from its predecessor. (Soper's Law)

Any buttered pancake that falls down will land on the buttered side. Results of this principle are not affected in any way by adding jam. The pancake will land on the non-buttered side whenever attempting to demonstrate this principle. (Buttered Pancake Principle)

Any change looks terrible at first. (Principle of Design Inertia)

Any child who chatters non-stop at home will adamantly refuse to utter a word when requested to demonstrate for an audience. (Witzling's First Law of Progeny Performance)

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. (Gore's Third Law of Design Engineering)

Any component, when inadvertently dropped, will roll into a hiding place, the inaccessibility of which is proportional to the square of the component's irreplaceability.

Any cooking utensil placed in the dishwasher will be needed immediately thereafter for something else; any measuring utensil used for liquid ingredients will be needed immediately thereafter for dry ingredients. (Alice Hammond's Third Law of the Kitchen)

Any corporation with a minimum one thousand (1,000) work force becomes an autonomous entity, in which enough administrative paperwork is generated to make external contacts superfluous. (Parkinson's Law (also known as Thousand Principle))

Any device requiring service or adjustment will be least accessible. (The Fifteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Any error in any calculation will be in the direction of most harm. (The Second Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Any facts which, when included in the argument, give the desired result, are fair facts for the argument. (Fairfax's Law)

Any given program costs more and takes longer. (Second Law of Computer Programming)

Any given program, when running, is obsolete. (First Law of Computer Programming)

Any given program will expand to fill all available memory. (Fifth Law of Computer Programming)

Any horizontal surface is soon piled up. (Ringwald's Law of Household Geometry)

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

Any issue worth debating is worth avoiding altogether. (Fahnstock's Third Law of Debate)

Any machine design must contain at least one part which is obsolete, two parts which are unobtainable, and three parts which are still under development.

Any minimum criteria set will be the maximum value used. (Robbins' Mini-Max Rule of Government)

Any order that can be misunderstood has been misunderstood. (The Army Axiom)

Any pre-cut equipment is too short. This is specially true of optic fiber cables with expensive connectors at both ends. (Vuilleumier's First Law)

Any producing entity is the last to use its own product. (Meissner's Law)

Any product cut to length will be too short. (Klipstein's Observation)

Any quotation that can be altered will be. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1)

Any set of results can match any set of equations provided you develop a good imagination and sense of tolerance. (Diddle's Principle)

Any shy, introverted child will choose a crowded public area to loudly demonstrate newly acquired vocabulary (damn, penis, etc.). (Witzling's Second Law of Progeny Performance)

Any simple idea will be worded in the most complicated way. (Malek's Law)

Any simple problem can be made insoluble if enough conferences are held to discuss it. (Mitchell's First Law of Committology)

Any simple problem can be made insoluble if enough meetings are held to discuss it. (Mitchell's Law of Committees)

Any simple theory will be worked in the most complicated way.

Any small object that is accidentally dropped will hide under a larger object.

Any smoothly functioning technology is indistinguishable from a "rigged" demo.

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. (Clarke's Third Law)

Any system must be designed to withstand the worst possible set of circumstances. (Corollary to Sodd's Second Law)

Any system that depends on reliability is unreliable.

Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable. (Gilb's Second Law of Unreliability)

Any task worth doing was worth doing yesterday. (Grossman's Dilemma)

Any technical problem can be overcome given enough time and money. (Lerman's Law of Technology)

Any technology distinguishable from magic is insufficiently advanced.

Any time you get a mouthful of hot soup, the next thing you do will be wrong. (Zall's First Law)

Any time you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong. (The 50-50-90 rule)

Any tool escaping manipulator's hands will not necessarily follow Earth's gravitational field, but will land in the most unreachable location in the prototype, smashing on its way the most expensive component of the prototype. This will know only one exception if the tool is particularly heavy, in which case it will land on the manipulator's foot. (Vuilleumier's Third Law (also known as Selective Gravitational Field))

Any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible corner of the workshop. (Anthony's Law of the Workshop)

Any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible corner of the workshop. On the way to the corner, any dropped tool will first always strike your toes. (Corollary to Anthony's Law of the Workshop)

Any two philosophers can tell each other all they know in two hours. Holmes

Any wire cut to length will be too short. (Klipstein's Fourth Law Applied to General Engineering)

Anybody can win, unless there happens to be a second entry.

Anyone can admit they were wrong; the true test is admitting it to someone else.

Anyone can make a decision given enough facts. (Spencer's First Law of Data)

Anyone can make an omelet with eggs. The trick is to make one with none.

Anyone who is popular is bound to be disliked. (Berra's Second Law)

Anyone who makes a significant contribution to any field of endeavor, and stays in that field long enough, becomes an obstruction to its progress - in direct proportion to the importance of their original contribution. (Jones' First Law)

Anything can be made to work if you fiddle with it long enough. (Wyszkowski's Second Law)

Anything dropped in the bathroom falls in the toilet. (Flucard's Corollary)

Anything good in life is either illegal, immoral or fattening. (Pardo's First Postulate from Murphy's Law)

Anything in parentheses can be ignored. (Seeger's Law)

Anything is easier to take apart than to put together. (Washlesky's Law)

Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about. (Green's Law of Debate)

Anything is possible, unless it's not.

Anything labeled "NEW" and/or "IMPROVED" isn't. (Hershiser's First Rule)

Anything may be divided into as many parts as you please. (Law of Arbitrary Distinction)

Anything may be divided into as many parts as you please. In this case 'everything' may be viewed as a subset of 'anything'. (Commentary on the Law of Arbitrary Distinction)

Anything not nailed down is a cat toy...

Anything that begins well, ends badly. Anything that begins badly, ends worse. (Pudder's Law)

Anything that can be changed will be changed until there is no time left to change anything. (First Law of Corporate Planning)

Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

Anything you do can get you shot, including nothing. (Murphy's Fifteenth Rule of combat)

Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something. (Second Corollary to Chisholm's Second Law)

Arrogance is too often the companion of excellence. (Fox on Power)

As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. Albert Einstein

As soon as a back-order has entered the “no longer available” category, the item will no longer be obtainable anywhere at any price. (Yount’s Fourth Law of Mail Ordering)

As soon as the stewardess serves the coffee, the airliner encounters turbulence. (Rogers’ Law)

As soon as you mention something... if it’s good, it goes away... if it’s bad, it happens. (The Unspeakable Law)

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold. (Owen’s Law for Secretaries)

As the economy gets better, everything else gets worse. (Buchwald’s Law)

Asking a group of scientists to revise their theory is like asking a group of cops to revise the law. (Barr’s Inertial Principle)

Asking dumb questions is easier than correcting dumb mistakes. (Launegayer’s Observation)

Assumption is the mother of all screw-ups. (Wethern’s Law of Suspended Judgment)

At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle arrive last. (Breda’s Rule)

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last. (Breda’s Rule)

At least 5 buses go by in the opposite direction before yours arrives.

At some time in the life cycle of virtually every organization, its ability to succeed in spite of itself runs out. (Brien’s First Law)

At the end of the semester you will recall having enrolled in a course at the beginning of the semester – and never attending. (Sixth Law of Applied Terror)

Attempt to be seen with important people. (Spark’s Second Rule for the Project Manager)

Auditors always reject any expense account with a bottom line divisible by 5 or 10. (O’Brien’s Principle; The \$357.73 Theory)

Authority tends to assign jobs to those least able to do them. (Cornuelle’s Law)

Authorization for a project will be granted only when none of the authorizers can be blamed if the project fails but when all of the authorizers can claim credit if it succeeds. (Rogers’ Rule)

Avoid administrators. (First Rule for College Survival)

Avoid cliches like the plague; seek viable alternatives. (William Safire’s 19th Rule for Writers)

Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky. (William Safire’s 15th Rule for Writers)

Avoidance of interruptions including the assignment of other duties can usually be achieved, so that the obviously stressed worker can concentrate on the single effort. (Fourth Law of Procrastination)

Bad law is more likely to be supplemented than repealed. (Oaks’ Second Principle of Lawmaking)

Bad money drives out good money. (Gresham’s Law)

Bad weather reports are more often right than the good ones. (Murphy’s Thirty-sixth Law)

Badness comes in waves. (Fourth Snafu Equation)

Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors and miss. (Long’s Note)

Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clean to the bone. (Parker’s Law)

Beauty times brains equals a constant. (Beckhap’s Law)

Before ordering a test decide what you will do it it is 1) positive, or 2) negative. If both answers are the same, don’t do the test. (Cochrane’s Aphorism)

Believing is seeing. (Disimoni’s Rule of Cognition)

Beware of the physician who is great at getting out of trouble. (Matz’s Warning)

Biochemistry expands to fill the space and time available for its completion and publication. (Hersh’s Law)

Break a few rules.

Build a system even a fool can use, and only a fool will use it.

Build a system that even a fool can use, and only a fool will want to use it. (Shaw’s Principle)

Build something foolproof and every fool will use it.

Buses turn up within minutes of you lighting a cigarette. (Bus Travel Law VI)

By definition, when you are investigating the unknown you do not know what you will find. (The Ultimate Principle)

By making something absolutely clear, someone will become confused. (Murphy's Eleventh Law)

By the time one masters the exceptions, no one recalls the rules to which they apply. (Third Corollary to the First Law of Scientific Progress)

By the time you get to the point where you can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends. (Goda's Truism)

By trying to please everybody, somebody will be displeased. (Murphy's Fifth Law)

By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be a boss and work twelve hours a day. (Murphy's Sixth Law)

Capitalism is based on the assumption that you can win. (Freeman's Commentary on Ginsberg's First Theorem)

Careful planning will never replace dumb luck.

Carelessly planned projects take three times longer to complete than expected. Carefully planned projects take four times longer to complete than expected, mostly because the planners expect their planning to reduce the time it takes.

Celibacy is not hereditary. (First Law of Socio-Genetics)

Changing things is central to leadership, and changing them before anyone else is showing creativeness. (Jay's First Law of Leadership)

Characteristics, specifications, dimensions and any other data included in technical documents must be stated in exotic units, such as tenth of troy ounce per barn for pressures, or acre times atmosphere per kilogram for speeds. (Universal Tech Document Units Law)

Chicago law prohibits eating in a place that is on fire.

Chicken Little only has to be right once. (Firestone's Law of Forecasting)

Chipped dishes never break. (Pope's Law)

Circumstances can force a generalized incompetent to become competent, at least in a specialized field. (Freeman's Rule)

Citizens want honest politicians until they want something fixed. (Hall's Second Law of Politics)

Class schedules are designed so that every student will waste the maximum time between classes. (Second Law of Class Scheduling)

Cleanliness is next to impossible. (O'Reilly's Law of the Kitchen) (O'Reilly's Spring Cleaning Law)

Comments made about someone might as well have been said by that person. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2C)

Complex problems have simple, easy-to-understand wrong answers. (Grossman's Law; Grossman's Misquote of H. L. Mencken)

Complex systems tend to oppose their own proper function. (Le Chatelier's Principle)

Complicated systems produce unexpected outcomes. (First Alternative Formulation to The Generalized Uncertainty Principle)

Computers are unreliable, but humans are even more unreliable. (Gilb's First Law of Unreliability)

Confusion creates jobs. (Hoffstedt's Employment Principle)

Confusion is always increasing in society. Only if someone or something works extremely hard can this confusion be reduced to order in a limited region. Nevertheless, this effort will still result in an increase in the total confusion of society at large. (Everitt's Second Law of Thermodynamics)

Constituency drives out consistency (i.e., liberals defend military spending, and conservatives social spending in their own districts). (Hall's Third Law of Politics)

Consultants are mystical people who ask a company for a number and then give it back to them. (MacDonald's Second Law)

Consumer assistance doesn't. (Brooks Fourth Law of Retailing)

Corresponding errors will show up in the duplicate while the Boss is reading it. (First Corollary to the Law of Office Murphology)

Cost of repair can be determined by multiplying the cost of your new coat by 1.75 or by multiplying the cost of a new washer by .75. (Second Corollary to Yeager's Law)

Create a need, and fill it. (Ely's Key to Success)

Create ideas that are 15 minutes ahead of their time... not light years ahead. (Second Creative Rule of The Thumb)

Create problems for which only you have the answer. (Corollary to Burke's Rule)

Create the impression that you have already reached your level of incompetence. (Peter's Rule for Creative Incompetence)

Creativity varies inversely with the number of cooks involved in the broth. (Fitz-Gibbon's Law)

Crisis management works beautifully until an actual crisis occurs.

Cut it large and kick it into place. (The Basic Law of Construction)

Dark dirt is attracted to light objects, and dark dirt to light objects.

Decisiveness is not in itself a virtue. (Fox's First Rule on Decisiveness)

Delay is the deadliest form of denial. (Parkinson's Law of Delay)

Dentists are incapable of asking questions that require a simple yes or no answer. (Mark's Dental-Chair Discovery)

Deny the last established truth on the list. (Pavlu's First Rule for Economy in Research)

Design flaws travel in groups. (Fifth Law of Design)

Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable terms. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight. (Klipstein's Third Law Applied to General Engineering)

Dimensions will always be in the wrong units, such as furlongs per fortnight. (Klipstein's Engineering Law)

Direct action produces direct reaction. (Issawi's Dialectics of Progress)

Discoveries are made by not following instructions.

Do more than the Law requires, rather than leave any thing undone that it does. James Carmichael

Do not believe in miracles - rely on them. (Finagle's Sixth Rule)

Do not put statements in the negative form. (William Safire's 3rd Rule for Writers)

Do not read this fortune under penalty of law. Violators will be prosecuted. (Penal Code sec. 2.3.2 (II.a.))

Do someone a favor and it becomes your job. (Pinto's Law)

Don't apply any model until you understand the simplifying assumptions on which it is based, and can test their applicability. (Golomb's Third Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't apply the terminology of Subject A to the problems of Subject B if it is to the enrichment of neither. (Golomb's Ninth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't be conspicuous. In the combat zone, it draws fire. Out of the combat zone, it draws sergeants. (Murphy's Seventh Military Law)

Don't be in the building when bad news arrives. (Corollary to Fox on Yesmanship)

Don't beat a dead horse. (Catch Phrase of Golomb's Seventh Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't believe that the model is the reality. (Golomb's Fourth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't believe the 33rd order consequences of a 1st order model. (Golomb's First Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't care if you're rich or not, as long as you can live comfortably and have everything you want. (Pardo's Third Postulate)

Don't distort reality to fit the model. (Golomb's Fifth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't eat the menu. (Catch Phrase of Golomb's Fourth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't engage in arguments, but if cornered, ask an irrelevant question and lean back with a satisfied grin while your opponent tries to figure out what's going on – then quickly change the subject. (Spark's Fourth Rule for the Project Manager)

Don't ever use helium for decorative purposes. *Hiram Clawson*

Don't expect that by having named a demon you have destroyed him. (Golomb's Tenth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't extrapolate beyond the region of fit. (Golomb's Second Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't fall in love with your model. (Golomb's Eighth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't force it, get a bigger hammer. (Paul's Law)

Don't force it; get a large hammer. (Anthony's Law of Force)

Don't get mad – get even. (The Kennedy Constant)

Don't go off the deep end. (Catch Phrase of Golomb's Second Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't let 'em scare you! (Rule Number One)

Don't let your superiors know you're better than they are. (First Rule of Superior Inferiority)

Don't let your superiors know you're superior to them. (First Rule of Superior Inferiority)

Don't limit yourself to a single model: More than one may be useful for understanding different aspects of the same phenomenon. (Golomb's Sixth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't look conspicuous, it draws fire. (Murphy's Third Rule of combat)

Don't lose heart; they might want to cut it out. (Owen's Commentary on White's Statement)

Don't lose heart; they might want to cut it out and they want to avoid a lengthy search. (Byrd's Addition to Owen's Commentary on White's Statement)

Don't overuse exclamation marks! (William Safire's 10th Rule for Writers)

Don't retain a discredited model. (Golomb's Seventh Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Don't sweat the small stuff. *Finn Taylor* (Rule number 1 in Life)

Don't worry about what other people are thinking about you. They're too busy worrying about what you are thinking about them. (Edelstein's Advice)

During the time an item is back-ordered, it will be available cheaper and quicker from many other sources. (Yount's Third Law of Mail Ordering)

Each problem solved introduces a new unsolved problem.

Each system has its own way of consuming vast amounts of paper: in socialist societies by filling large forms in quadruplicate, in capitalist societies by putting up huge posters and wrapping every article in four layers of cardboard. (Issawi's Observation on the Consumption of Paper)

Effort x Time = Constant (Edwards's Time/Effort Law)

Eighty percent of all people consider themselves to be above average drivers. (Grelb's Reminder)

Either it sounds right or it doesn't sound right. (Asimov's Main Rule about writing)

Enough guppies can eat a treasury. (Corollary to The Guppy Law)

Enough research will tend to support your conclusions. (Murphy's Fifteenth Law)

Enough research will tend to support your theory. (Murphy's Law of Research)

Envelopes and stamps which don't stick when you lick them will stick to other things when you don't want them to. (Fourth Corollary to the Law of Office Murphology)

Error is often more earnest than truth. (Disraeli's Dictum)

Established technology tends to persist in spite of new technology. (Blaauw's Law)

Even water tastes bad when taken on doctor's orders. (Murphy's Flu Philosophy; Corollary to the Fifth Principle for Patients)

Every action has an equal and opposite satisfaction. (Newton's Fourth Law)

Every activity takes more time than you have. (Murphy's Fourth Law)

Every American crusade winds up as a racket. (Roche's Fifth Law)

Every clarification breeds new questions. (Murphy's Twelfth Law)

Every employee begins at his level of competence. (Peter's Hidden Postulate according to Godin)

Every great idea has a disadvantage equal to or exceeding the greatness of the idea. (Hunt's Law)

Every instructor assumes that you have nothing else to do except study for that instructor's course. (Corollary to the Fourth Law of Applied Terror)

Every man has a scheme that absolutely won't work.

Every organization has an allotted number of positions to be filled by misfits. (Owen's Theory of Organisational Deviance)

Every revolutionary idea – in Science, Politics, Art or Whatever – evokes three stages of reaction. They may be summed up by the three phrases: 1) "It is impossible – don't waste my time." 2) "It

is possible, but it is not worth doing.” 3) “I said it was a good idea all along.” (Clarke’s Law of Revolutionary Ideas)

Every solution breeds new problems. (Seventh corollary to Murphy’s Law)

Everybody is somebody else’s weirdo. (Dykstra’s Law)

Everybody lies, but it doesn’t matter since nobody listens. (Liebermann’s Law)

Everybody should believe in something – I believe I’ll have another drink. (Steele’s Plagiarism of Somebody’s Philosophy)

Everybody wants a pain shot at the same time. (Telesco’s Fourth Law of Nursing)

Everybody wants to peel his own banana. (Young’s Principle of Emergent Individuation)

Everybody who didn’t want a pain shot when you were passing out pain shots wants one when you are passing out sleeping pills. (Telesco’s Fifth Law of Nursing)

Everyone has a scheme that will not work. (Howe’s Law)

Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with a singular nouns in their writing. (William Safire’s 16th Rule for Writers)

Everyone who does not work has a scheme that does. (Munder’s Corollary to Howe’s Law)

Everything costs more and takes longer. (Pournelle’s Law of Costs and Schedules)

Everything depends. (Langsam’s First Law)

Everything falls apart sooner or later.

Everything goes on sale... right after you buy it.

Everything goes wrong all at once. (Quantization Revision of Murphy’s Law)

Everything goes wrong at once.

Everything going good? You must have overlooked something.

Everything hurts... and what doesn’t don’t work.

Everything is a system. (The First Fundamental Postulate of Advanced Systems Theory)

Everything is contagious. (Price’s Third Law)

Everything is in a state of utter dishevelment. (Wallace’s Observation)

Everything is part of a larger system. (The Second Fundamental Postulate of Advanced Systems Theory)

Everything is small stuff. *Finn Taylor* (Rule number 2 in Life)

Everything is sometimes. (Langsam’s Third Law)

Everything not forbidden by the laws of Nature is mandatory. Trouble is, nearly everything is forbidden.

Everything put together, falls apart, sooner or later. (Simon’s Law)

Everything takes longer than you think it will. (Second corollary to Murphy’s Law)

Everything tends toward chaos. *John Quill Taylor*

Everything that goes up must come down.

Everything that is not mandatory is forbidden.

Everything you decide to do costs more than first estimated. (Murphy’s Third Law)

Everything you know for certain is wrong. (Sundqvist’s First Law)

Everything you know is wrong.

Everything you know is wrong, but you can be straightened out.

Exceptions always outnumber rules. (First Corollary to the First Law of Scientific Progress)

Exceptions prove the rule - and wreck the budget. (Miller’s Law)

Exciting plays only occur when you are watching the scoreboard or buying food. (Moser’s Law of Spectator Sports)

Expansion means complexity; and complexity decay. (Parkinson’s Fourth Law)

Expenditures rise to meet income. (Parkinson’s Second Law)

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards. (Vernon Saunders Law)

Experience is directly proportional to the amount of equipment ruined. *Horner* (Harrisberger's Fourth Law of the Lab)

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it. (Oliver's Law)

Experience varies directly with equipment ruined. (Horner's Five-Thumb Postulate)

Experiments should be reproducible - they should all fail in the same way. (Finagle's Fifth Rule)

Extremes meet. (Colridge's Law)

Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everybody gets busy on the proof. (Galbraith's Law of Human Nature)

Fact is solidified opinion. (Dunlap's First Law of Physics)

Facts may weaken under extreme heat and pressure. (Dunlap's Second Law of Physics)

Famous dead people make excellent commentators on current events. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1F)

Famous quotes need famous mouths. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2)

Fancy gizmos don't work. (Second Law of Gardening)

Far-away talent always seems better than home-developed talent. (Loftus' First Theory on Personnel Recruitment)

Fat expands to fill any apparel worn. (Livingston's First Law of Fat)

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

Firmness of delivery dates is inversely proportional to the tightness of the schedule. (Klipstein's Second Law Applied to General Engineering)

Fools rush in – and get the best seats. (Wise Fan's Lament)

For every '10' there are 10 '1's.' (Munder's Theorem)

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. (Harrison's Postulate)

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program. (Main's Law)

For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong. *H. L. Mencken*

For every vision, there is an equal and opposite revision. (Thal's Law)

For large values of one, one approaches two, for small values of two. (Murphy's Mathematical Axiom)

Forgive and remember. (Professor Block's Motto)

Four-wheel-drive just means getting stuck in more inaccessible places. (Phillips' Law)

Free time which unexpectedly becomes available will be wasted. (Sandiland's Law)

Friendly fire isn't. (Murphy's Second Military Law)

Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate. (Jones's Motto)

Fuzzy project objectives are used to avoid the embarrassment of estimating the corresponding costs. (First Law of Computerdom according to Golub)

Generalizedness of incompetence is directly proportional to highestness in hierarchy. (Godin's Law)

Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might go into a "Pearl Harbor File". (Spark's Tenth Rule for the Project Manager)

Given a bad start, trouble will increase at an exponential rate. (The Parouzzi Principle)

Given a choice between an easy solution and a complicated one, the loser will usually opt to travel the complicated path. Don't ignore a solution just because it's simple! (Life-complication Theory:) *Robert J. Ringer*

Given a choice between two theories, take the one which is funnier.

Given any problem containing 'n' equations, there will always be 'n+1' unknowns. (First Snafu Equation)

Given enough time, almost everything will occur.

Glory may be fleeting, but obscurity is forever. (Simon's Law of Destiny)

Government corruption is always reported in the past tense. (The Watergate Principle)

Government expands to absorb revenue and then some. (Wiker's Law)

Gravity brings you down.

GRAVITY. It isn't just a good idea. It's the law.

Kerr's Three Rules for a Successful College: Have plenty of football for the alumni, sex for the students, and parking for the faculty.

He who hesitates is not only lost, but several miles from the next freeway exit. (Nowlan's Theory)

He who hesitates is probably right. (Bogovich's Law)

He who laughs last probably didn't get the joke. (Bocklage's Law)

He who shouts the loudest has the floor. (Swipple's Rule of Order)

Hell is others. (Sartre's Observation)

Hindsight is an exact science. (Fagin's Rule on Past Prediction)

History doesn't repeat itself - historians merely repeat each other. (First Rule of History)

History is the science of what never happens twice. (Valery's Law)

History repeats itself. That's one of the things wrong with history. (Darrow's Comment on History)

Hockey is a game played by six good players and the home team. (Murray's Hockey Rule; Murray's Fourth Rule of the Arena)

Holes that are the right size will be in the wrong place. (Corollary to Smith's Law of Computer Repair)

Honesty is the best policy - there's less competition. (Van Roy's Law)

Hot glass looks exactly the same as cold glass. (First Law of Laboratory Work)

Hot glass looks the same as cold glass. (Cirino's Law of Burnt Fingers)

How did I know this was different? (Sixth Handy Office Excuse)

How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you are. (Murphy's Twenty-eight Law) (Zall's Second Law)

How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on. (Balance's Law of Relativity)

Humans are motivated by what has been done for them lately. *Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.* (Second Law of Sociodynamics)

Humans have a basic urge to sweep criticism about themselves under the rug. *Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.* (The Third Law of Sociodynamics)

I didn't know you were in a hurry for it. (Second Handy Office Excuse)

I didn't think it was very important. (Tenth Handy Office Excuse)

I thought I told you. (Twelfth Handy Office Excuse)

I wasn't hired to do that. (Thirteenth Handy Office Excuse)

I'm from the government and I'm here to help you. (The Third Least Credible Sentence in the English Language)

Identical units which test in an identical fashion will not behave in an identical fashion in the field. (The Eighteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

If 2 wrongs don't make a right, try 3. (Nixon's Principal)

If $A = B$ and $B = C$, then $A = C$, except where void or prohibited by law. *Roy Santoro*

If A equals success, then the formula is: $A = X + Y + Z$. X is work. Y is play. Z is keep your mouth shut.

If a problem causes many meetings, the meetings eventually become more important than the problem. (Hendrickson's Law)

If a program is useful, it will have to be changed. (Third Law of Computer Programming)

If a program is useless, it will have to be documented. (Fourth Law of Computer Programming)

If a programmer's modification of an existing programme works, it's probably not what the user wants. (Manubay's First Law for Programmers)

If a project requires 'n' components, there will be 'n-1' units in stock. (Klipstein's Second Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

If a research project is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well. (Gordon's First Law)

If a scientist uncovers a publishable fact, it will become central to his theory. (Mann's Law)

If a scientist uncovers a publishable fact, it will become central to his theory. His theory, in turn, will become central to all scientific thought. (Corollary to Mann's Law)

If a series of events can go wrong, it will do so in the worst possible sequence. (The Extended Murphy's Law)

If a situation requires undivided attention, it will occur simultaneously with a compelling distraction. (Hutchinson's Law)

If a straight line fit is required, obtain only two data points. (Velilind's Second Law of Experimentation)

If a string has one end, it has another. (The Gordian Maxim)

If a string has one end, then it has another end. (Miksch's Law)

If a subordinate asks you a pertinent question, look at him as if he had lost his senses. When he looks down, paraphrase the question back at him. (Spark's Sixth Rule for the Project Manager)

If a sufficient number of management layers are superimposed on each other, it can be assured that disaster is not left to chance. (Law Number XXVI)

If a test installation functions perfectly, all subsequent production units will malfunction. (The Seventh Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers; Troutman's First Programming Postulate)

If a thing's worth doing, it is worth doing badly. *G. K. Chesterton*

If a tool is put away when you're sure it won't be needed again, it will. Soon.

If all else fails, read the directions.

If all goes well, you've overlooked something.

If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. (Baruch's Observation)

If an experiment works, something has gone wrong. (Finagle's first Law)

If an experiment works, you must be using the wrong equipment.

If an hour has been spent amending a sentence, someone will move to delete the paragraph. (Kim's Rule of Committees)

If an idea can survive a bureaucratic review and be implemented, it wasn't worth doing. (Mollison's Bureaucracy Hypothesis)

If an item is advertised as "under \$50", you can bet it's not \$19.95. (McGowan's Madison Avenue Axiom)

In any human enterprise, work seeks the lowest hierarchal level. (Vail's Axiom)

If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linked verb is. (William Safire's 13th Rule for Writers)

If anything can go wrong, invariably it will. (Murphy's First Law)

If anything can go wrong, it will. (Murphy's Law)

If anything can go wrong, it will do so in triplicate. (Murphy's Law of Government)

If anything can't go wrong, it will. (Schnatterly's Summing Up of the Corollaries)

If anything is used to its full potential, it will break. (Poulsen's Prophecy)

If anything just cannot go wrong, it will anyway. (Murphy's Fifth Law)

If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished.

If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

If at first you don't succeed, change the rules.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried. (Rule of Failure; Fahnestock's Rule for Failure)

If at first you don't succeed, give up, no use being a damn fool.

If at first you don't succeed, quit; don't be a nut about success.

If at first you don't succeed read the manual. (Montgomery's Maxim)

If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving isn't for you.

If at first you don't succeed, take a break. (Fourth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

If at first you don't succeed, try management.

If at first you don't succeed, try skydiving.

If at first you don't succeed, you probably didn't really care anyway.

If at first you don't succeed, your successor will. *Lord Birdwood*

If at first you don't succeed, you're doing about average. *Leonard Levinson*

If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization. (Weinberg's Second Law)

If enough data is collected, anything can be proven by statistical methods. (William's and Holland's Law)

If enough data is collected, anything may be proven by statistical methods. (William's and Holland's Law)

If every expert consulted states the problem has no solution, its solution will be obvious to the first unqualified person entering the room, whether he/she speaks the language or not. (Murphy's Corollary)

If everything appears to be going well, you don't know what the hell is going on.

If everything is coming your way then you're in the wrong lane. (Law of Life's Highway)

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something. (Murphy's Eighth Law)

If if, then then. (The Theorem Theorem)

If, in the course of several months, only three worthwhile social events take place. They will all fall on the same evening. (Johnson's Second Law)

If it ain't fixed, don't break it!

If it ain't no big deal, don't worry about it. *Louis Spanoudis*

If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway. (Lowery's Law)

If it breaks, you used too big a hammer. (Paul's Third Law)

If daily class attendance is mandatory, a scheduled exam will produce increased absenteeism. If attendance is optional, a scheduled exam will produce persons you have never seen before. (Rominger's Second Rule for Teachers)

If it does exist, it's out of date. (Arnold's Second Law of Documentation)

If it doesn't make sense, it's either economics or psychology. (Cerf's Second Extension to the Handy Guide to Modern Science)

If it doesn't matter, it does not matter. (Hill's Fourth Commentary on Murphy's Law)

If it doesn't work, expand it. (Schrank's First Law)

If it doesn't work, it's physics. (Rule three of the Handy Guide to Modern Science)

If it would be cheaper to buy a new unit, the company would insist upon repairing the old one. (Jaruk's Second Law)

If it would be cheaper to repair the old one, the company will insist on the latest model. (Corollary to Jaruk's Second Law)

If everybody doesn't want it, nobody gets it. (Price's First Law)

If everyone says you are wrong, you're one step ahead. If everyone laughs at you, you're two steps ahead. (Sixth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

If, in engineering practice, a safety factor is set through service experience at an ultimate value, an ingenious idiot will promptly calculate a method to exceed said safety factor. (The Nineteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

If it happens, it must be possible.

If it is good, they will stop making it. (Herblock's Law)

If it isn't broken, don't fix it.

If it jams, force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway. (Lowery's Law)

If it looks easy, it's tough. If it looks tough, it's damn well impossible. (Stockmayer's Theorem)

If it pours before seven, it has rained by eleven.

If it says "one size fits all," it doesn't fit anyone. (Glaser's Law)

If it should exist, it doesn't. (Arnold's First Law of Documentation)

If it sits on your desk for 15 minutes, you've just become the expert. (Winger's Rule)

If it stinks, it's chemistry. (Rule two of the Handy Guide to Modern Science)

If it was easy, it wouldn't be any fun.

If it wasn't so cool out today, it would be warmer.

If it wasn't so warm out today, it would be cooler.

If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done. (Corollary to Edwards' Time/Effort Law)

If it works, don't fix it.

If it works, I didn't do it.

If it works, rip it apart and find out why.

If it works, something went wrong.

If it's clean, it isn't laundry. (Clive's Rebuttal to Walker's Law)

If it's done it's done, if it can't be undone don't worry about it. *Louis Spanoudis*

If it's easily fixed, it don't matter whose fault it was.

If it's good, they discontinue it. (Herblock's Law)

If it's green or it wriggles, it's biology. (Rule one of the Handy Guide to Modern Science)

If it's in stock, it didn't need replacing in the first place. (Campbell's Third Law of Automotive Repair)

If it's incomprehensible, it's mathematics. (Cerf's First Extension to the Handy Guide to Modern Science)

If it's obvious, it's obviously wrong.

If it's someone else's problem, don't worry about it. *Louis Spanoudis*

If it's stupid, but it works, then it's not stupid.

If it's worth doing, it's worth doing for money.

If it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing. (Leo Rogers' Commentary)

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

If measured results do not match computed values of your equation, add a new factor - named after yourself - to the equation. (Fudge's Principle)

If more than one person is responsible for a miscalculation, no one will be at fault. (The Seventeenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

If more than one person is responsible for a problem, no one is at fault.

If Murphy's Law can go wrong, it will. (Silberman's Law; Silberman's Paradox)

If n electronic components are required, n-1 are available. (Vuilleumier's Second Law)

If no one uses it, there's a reason.

If nobody uses it, there's a reason. (Rule of Reason; Third Law of Gardening)

If noted figures don't say what needs to be said, we'll say it for them. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1D)

If one views his problem closely enough, he will recognize himself as part of the problem. (Ducharm's Axiom)

If only one bid can be secured on any project, the price will be unreasonable. (The Sixth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

If only one price can be obtained for any quotation, the price will be unreasonable. (Law of the Marketplace)

If people listened to themselves more often, they would talk less. (Courtois' Rule)

If reproducibility may be a problem, conduct the test only once. (Velilind's First Law of Experimentation)

If several things that could have gone wrong have not gone wrong, it would have been ultimately beneficial for them to have gone wrong. (The Last Law)

If simple stupidity is inadequate to account for a complicated mess it is necessary to find a more elaborate hypothesis. *Robin Williams* (Occam's razor (updated))

If sophisticated calculations are needed to justify an action, don't do it. (Fourth Truth of Management)

If someone says he will do something "without fail," he won't. (Ozman's Law)

If something is confidential it will be left in the copier machine. (Connor's Second Law)

If stock market experts were so expert, they would be buying stock, not selling advice. (Law Number XXII)

If the bulletin covers are in short supply, church attendance will exceed all expectations. (Reverend Chichester's Third Law)

If the course you wanted most has room for 'n' students, you will be the 'n+1' to apply. (First Law of Class Scheduling)

If the enemy is in range, so are you. (Murphy's First Rule of combat)

If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the facts and the law are against you, yell like hell. (The Rule of Law)

If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of. (Maier's Law)

If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of. The bigger the theory, the better. (First Corollary to Maier's Law)

If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of. The experiment may be considered a success if no more than 50% of the observed measurements must be discarded to obtain a correspondence with the theory. (Second Corollary to Maier's Law)

If the input editor has been designed to reject all bad input, an ingenious idiot will discover a method to get bad data past it. (Troutman's Fifth Programming Postulate)

If the piece makes no sense without the word, it will make no sense with the word. (Bogovich's Corollary to Mr. Cooper's Law)

If the shoe fits, it's ugly. (Gold's Law)

If the slightest probability for an unpleasant event to happen exists, the event will take place; preferably during a demonstration. (Murphy's Law)

If the spot is on the inside, you won't be able to reach it. (Corollary to Hamilton's Rule for Cleaning Glassware)

If the weather is extremely bad, church attendance will be down. (Reverend Chichester's First Law)

If the weather is extremely good, church attendance will be down. (Reverend Chichester's Second Law)

If there are only two shows worth watching, they will be on at the same time. (Jones's First Law of TV Programming)

If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it. (Murphy's Original Law)

If there are two possible ways to spell a person's name, you will pick the wrong one. Corollary: If there is only one way to spell a name, you will spell it wrong, anyway. (Second Law of Business Meetings)

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. (Third corollary to Murphy's Law)

If there is a way to delay an important decision, the good bureaucracy, public or private, will find it. (Parkinson's Fifth Law)

If there is a wrong way to do something, most people will do it every time. (Rudin's Law)

If there's no damage, don't make a project out of it. *Louis Spanoudis*

If things appear to be going well, you have overlooked something.

If we can't fix it - we'll fix it so nobody can. *B. Gibbons*

If we have everything to gain by change, relax. (Hill's Third Commentary on Murphy's Law)

If we have nothing to lose by change, relax. (Hill's Second Commentary on Murphy's Law)

If we lose much by having things go wrong, take all possible care. (Hill's First Commentary on Murphy's Law)

If, when completion of a design is imminent, field dimensions are finally supplied as they actually are - instead of as they were meant to be - it is always simpler to start over from scratch. (Fyfe's Third Law of Revision)

If you allow someone to get in front of you, either a) the car in front will be the last one over a railroad crossing, and you will be stuck waiting for a long, slow-moving train, or b) you both will have the same destination, and the other car will get the last parking place. (Athena's Rules of Driving Courtesy)

If you are at the front of the queue the bus stops at the back. (Bus Travel Law III)

If you are at the station in time, the train will leave the station about the number of minutes late you need to reach some other connection at your destination. During the travel it constantly gains some minutes and loses them again, so that you'll never know if you will reach your destination in time.

If you are given a take-home exam, you will forget where you live. (Corollary to the Fifth Law of Applied Terror)

If you are given an open-book exam, you will forget your book. (Fifth Law of Applied Terror)

If you are given two contradictory orders, obey them both. (Brintnall's Second Law)

If you are in one, STOP DIGGING! (First Rule of Holes)

If you are seen fixing it, you will be blamed for breaking it.

If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in a combat zone. (Murphy's Eighteenth Rule of combat)

If you arrive late at the railway station within five to ten minutes, the train will leave exactly one minute before you come, so that you can still see that it just has left within this minute on the big panel at the wall, which informs about the train's respective platforms.

If you arrive late at the station within two to five minutes, your train will leave in time (means: you miss it)

If you arrive more than ten minutes late to the railway station, there are two possibilities: a) Either the train leaves just in the moment you reach the platform. This happens frequently if you had not hurried so much because you thought, "I'll never get this" train anyway. (Of course the train does this to prove your assumption wrong.) b) On the other hand the train may still be there and leave immediately after you entered it. This mostly happens when your interest to really get onto the train was very low and you had already planned using the excuse "Sorry, I've missed the train" to avoid staying too long at some boring meeting.

If you buy bananas or avocados before they are ripe, there won't be any left by the time they are ripe. If you buy them ripe, they rot before they are eaten. (Banana Principle)

If you can distinguish between good advice and bad advice, then you don't need advice. (van Roy's Second Law)

If you can get the part off, the parts house will have it back-ordered. (Campbell's Second Law of Automotive Repair)

If you can get to the faulty part, you don't have the tool to get it off. (Campbell's First Law of Automotive Repair)

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, you just don't understand the problem. (Evans' Law)

If you can remain calm, you just don't have all the facts.

If you can't do anything about it, don't worry about it. *Louis Spanoudis*

If you can't fix it, feature it. (Last Law of Product Design)

If you can't learn to do it well, you should learn to enjoy doing it badly. (Ashleigh's First Law)

If you can't remember, the claymore is pointed at you. (Murphy's Tenth Rule of combat)

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

If you cannot convince them, confuse them. (Truman's Law)

If you change lines, the one you just left will start to move faster than the one you are now in. (O'Brian's Law; O'Brian's Variation on Etorre's Observation)

If you consult enough experts you can confirm any opinion. (Hiram's Law)

If you did manage to get any good shots, they will be ruined when someone inadvertently opens the darkroom door and all of the dark leaks out. (The Third Law of Photography)

If you do not understand a particular word in a piece of technical writing, ignore it. The piece will make perfect sense without it. (Mr. Cooper's Law)

If you do something right once, someone will ask you to do it again. (Denniston's Corollary)

If you do something which you are sure will meet with everybody's approval, somebody won't like it. (Second Corollary to Chisholm's Third Law)

If you don't care where you are, you ain't lost. (Rune's Rule)

If you don't throw it, they can't hit it. (Lefty Gomez's Law)

If you don't write to complain, you'll never receive your order. If you do write, you'll receive the merchandise before your angry letter reaches its destination. (Savignano's Mail-Order Law)

If you drop something, it will never reach the ground. (Femo's Law of Automotive Engine Repairing)

If you explain so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will. (First Corollary to Chisholm's Third Law)

If you file it, you'll know where it is but never need it. If you don't file it, you'll need it but never know where it is. (Tillis' Organisational Principle)

If you fool around with something long enough, it will eventually break.

If you hail a taxi, your bus comes. (Bus Travel Law II)

If you have a difficult task, give it to a lazy man - he will find an easier way to do it. (Hlade's Law)

If you have a difficult task, give it to a lazy person - he will find an easier way to do it. (Hlade's Law)

If you have an open book test, you will forget your book. If you have a take home test, you will forget where you live. (Professor Marlin's Rule)

If you have to park six blocks away, you will find two new parking places in front of the building entrance. (Lemar's Parking Postulate)

If you have watched a TV series only once, and you watch it again, it will be a rerun of the same episode. (Law of Reruns)

If you help a friend in need he's sure to remember you - the next time he's in need. (Cheit's Lament)

If you hit two keys on the typewriter, the one you don't want hits the paper. (Murphy's Forty-second Law; Devrie's Dilemma)

If you improve or tinker with something long enough, eventually it will break or malfunction. (Murphy's Tenth Law)

If you keep anything long enough, you can throw it away. (Richard's First Complementary Rule of Ownership)

If you keep trying to prove Murphy's Law, will something keep going wrong?

If you knew what you were doing you'd probably be bored. (Fresco's Discovery)

If you leave the room, you're elected. (Matilda's Law of Sub-Committee Formation)

If you like it and it fits, you can't afford it. (Hadley's Third Law of Clothing Shopping)

If you like it and it's in your size, it doesn't fit anyway. (Hadley's Second Law of Clothing Shopping)

If you like it, it fits and you can afford it, it falls apart the first time you wear it. (Hadley's Fourth Law of Clothing Shopping)

If you like it, they don't have it in your size. (Hadley's First Law of Clothing Shopping)

If you make a mistake, you right it immediately to the best of your ability.

If you make "duck a l'orange" you will be complimented on the baked potato. (Example of the Fifth Law of Kitchen Confusion)

If you mess with a thing long enough, it will break. (Schmidt's Law)

If you miss one issue of any magazine, it will be the issue which contained the article, story or installment you were most anxious to read. (Johnson's Third Law)

If you miss one issue of any magazine, it will be the issue which contained the article, story or installment you were most anxious to read. All of your friends either missed it, lost it or threw it out (Corollary to Johnson's Third Law)

If you need four screws for the job, the first three are easy to find. (The N-1 Law)

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. (Fourth corollary to Murphy's Law)

If you push something hard enough, it will fall over. (Fudd's First Law)

If you put a spoonful of wine in a barrel full of sewage, you get sewage. If you put a spoonful of sewage in a barrel full of wine, you get sewage. (Schopenhauer's Law of Entropy)

If you put it off long enough, it might go away.

If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap. (Murphy's Eighth Military Law)

If you refuse to accept anything but the best you very often get it.

If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing. (William Safire's 6th Rule for Writers)

If you seem to be getting better, it's your doctor getting worse. (Murphy's Flu Law)

If you spill your coffee in your neighbor's lap INSTANTLY assure him that you really didn't care for the coffee anyway. Tell him not to mind it at all. (Awful Table Manners Corrected) *A. M. Davis ("Bert Milton")*

If you stand in one place long enough, you make a queue. (Vile's Sixth Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

If you start to walk the bus will appear when you are halfway between stops. (Bus Travel Law IX)

If you stay up all night wondering where the sun is, it will dawn on you.

If you step out of a short queue for a second, it becomes a long queue. (Vile's Third Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

If you take something apart and put it back together enough times, eventually you will have two of them. (Rap's Law of Inanimate Reproduction)

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the next morning you will have a flat tire. (Cannon's Law)

If you think big enough, you'll never have to do it. (Reisner's Rule of Conceptual Inertia)

If you throw anything away, you will need it as soon as it is no longer accessible. (Richard's Second Complementary Rule of Ownership)

If you try to please everyone, somebody is not going to like it.

If you understand it, it's obsolete. (Bitton's Postulate on State-of-the-Art Electronics)

If you wait, it will go away. (Hellrung's Law)

If you wait, it will go away having done its damage. (Shavelson's Extension to Hellrung's Law)

If you wait, it will go away. If it was bad, it'll be back. (Grelb's Addition to Hellrung's Law)

If you want a track team to win the high jump, you find one person who can jump seven feet, not seven people who can jump one foot. (Terman's Law of Innovation)

If you want to get along, go along. (Rayburn's Rule)

If you want to get something done, give it to a busy person.

If you wish to make an improved product, you must already be engaged in making an inferior one.

If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush. (Murphy's Thirteenth Rule of combat)

If your condition seems to be getting better, it's probably your doctor getting sick. (Sixth Principle for Patients)

If your facts are wrong but your logic is perfect, then your conclusions are inevitably false. Therefore, by making mistakes in your logic, you have at least a random chance of coming to a correct conclusion. (Christie-Davies' Theorum)

If your hand contains a singleton or a void, that is the suit your partner will bid... and bid... and bid...
(Smith's First Law of Bridge)

If your hand contains the K, J, 9 of diamonds and the Ace of spades, when the dummy is spread to your left it will contain A, Q, 10 of diamonds and the King of spades. (Smith's Second Law of Bridge)

If your project doesn't work, look for the part you didn't think was important. (Biondi's Law)

If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy. (Murphy's Sixth Military Law)

If you're early, it'll be cancelled. If you knock yourself out to be on time, you will have to wait. If you're late, you will be too late. (Luposchinsky's Hurry-Up-And-Wait Principle)

If you're early, it's cancelled, if you're on time, it's late, if you're late, you're late.

If you're feeling good, don't worry. You'll get over it. (Boling's Postulate)

If you're in a short queue, the people in front let in their friends and relatives and make it a long queue. (Vile's Fourth Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

If you're running for a short queue, it suddenly becomes a long queue. (Vile's First Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

If you're wondering if you have enough money to take the family out to eat tonight, you don't.
(Working Cook's Fourth Law)

If you're wondering if you let the coffee pot plugged in, you did. (Working Cook's Second Law)

If you're wondering if you need to stop and pick up bread and eggs on the way home, you do.
(Working Cook's Third Law)

If you're wondering if you took the meat out to thaw, you didn't. (Working Cook's First Law)

I'm so busy, I just can't get around to it. (Eleventh Handy Office Excuse)

I'm waiting for an O.K. (Fifth Handy Office Excuse)

Important belongings are always found in the last place you look and when you eventually find it you have no idea why you were looking for that particular item. (Sundqvist's Second Law)

Important letters which contain no errors will develop errors in the mail. (Law of Office Murphology)

In case of doubt, make it sound convincing. (Finagle's Fourth Rule)

In a bureaucratic hierarchy, the higher up the organization the less people appreciate Murphy's Law, the Peter Principle, etc. (Rogers' Observation Regarding the Laws)

In a family recipe you just discovered in an old book, the most vital measurement will be illegible.
(Third Law of Kitchen Confusion)

In a family recipe you just discovered in an old book, the most vital measurement will be illegible.
You will discover that you can't read it only after you have mixed all the other ingredients.
(Corollary to the Third Law of Kitchen Confusion)

In a hierarchical organization, the higher the level, the greater the confusion. (Dow's Law)

In a hierarchical system, the rate of pay for a given task increases an inverse ratio to the unpleasantness and difficulty of the task. (First Law of Socio-Economics)

In a hierarchical system, the rate of pay varies inversely with the unpleasantness and difficulty of the task. (Primary Principle of Socioeconomics)

In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence. (The Peter Principle)

In a key position in every genealogy you will find a John Smith from London. (McLaughlin's Law)

In a pinch, any orphan quote can be called a Chinese proverb. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2F)

In a social situation, that which is most difficult to do is usually the right thing to do. (Meyer's Law)

In a social situation, the most difficult thing to do is usually the right thing to do. (Meyer's Law)

In a three-story building served by one elevator, nine times out of ten the elevator car will be on a floor where you are not. (Dedera's Law)

In a world full of people we are alone.

In America, it's not how much an item costs, it's how much you save. (Paulg's Law)

In an organization, each person rises to the level of his own incompetency. (The Peter Principle)

In an otherwise empty locker room, any two individuals will have adjoining lockers. (Dorr's Law of Athletics)

In any bureaucracy, paperwork increases as you spend more and more time reporting on the less and less you are doing. Stability is achieved when you spend all of your time reporting on the nothing you are doing. (Cohn's Law)

In any calculation, any error which can creep in will do so. (The First Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need of checking, is the mistake. (Finagle's third Law)

In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need of checking, is the mistake. Everyone who stops by with unsought advice will see it immediately. (Second corollary to Finagle's third Law)

In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need of checking, is the mistake. No one whom you ask for help will see it. (First corollary to Finagle's third Law)

In any computation, the value given for certain is wrong. (Sjeverrijk Theorem)

In any dealings with a collective body of people, the people will always be more tacky than originally expected. (Lee's Law)

In any field of scientific endeavor, anything that can go wrong will go wrong. (Murphy's Third Law)

In any formula, constants (especially those obtained from engineering handbooks) are to be treated as variables. (The Third Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

In any fraction of mid-level complexity, interchange of factors above and under the fraction bar takes place. (Fractions Computations Basic Principle)

In any given set of circumstances, the proper course of action is determined by subsequent events. (McDonald's Corollary to Murphy's Law)

In any group of pieces with the same erection mark on it, one should not have that mark on it. It will not be discovered until you try to put it where the mark says it's supposed to go. (Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

In any human enterprise, work seeks the lowest hierarchal level. (Vail's Axiom)

In any organization there will always be one person who knows what is going on. This person must be fired. (Conway's Law)

In any series of calculations, errors tend to occur at the opposite end to the end at which you begin checking for errors. (Grelb's Law of Erroring)

In any structure, pick out the one piece that should not be mismarked and expect the plant to cross you up. (Fourth Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

In approaching a double door, you will always go to the one door that is locked, pull when you should have pushed, and push when the sign says pull. (Ehre's Double-Door Law)

In case of doubt, make it sound convincing. (Finagle's fourth rule)

In crises that force people to choose among alternative courses of action, most people will choose the worst one possible. (Rudin's Law)

In dealing with a body of people, the people will be more tacky than expected. (Lee's Law)

In dealing with other people's problems, they [faculty members] are the most extreme liberals. (Second Kerr-Martin Law)

In dealing with their own problems faculty members are the most extreme conservatives. (First Kerr-Martin Law)

In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totalled correctly after 4:40 p.m. on Friday. (Law of the Lost Inch)

In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totalled correctly after 4:40 p.m. on Friday. The correct total will become self-evident at 9:01 a.m. on Monday. (Second Corollary to the Law of the Lost Inch)

In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totalled correctly after 4:40 p.m. on Friday. Under the same conditions, if any minor dimensions are given to sixteenth of an inch, they cannot be totaled at all. (First Corollary to the Law of the Lost Inch)

In every organized activity, no matter the sphere, a small number will become the oligarchical leaders and the others will follow. (Sociology's Iron Law of Oligarchy)

In every work of genius we recognize our rejected thoughts. (Emerson's Observation)

In order for something to become clean, something else must become dirty (Imbesi's Law of the Conservation of Filth)

In order for something to become clean, something else must become dirty but you can get everything dirty without getting anything clean. (Freeman's Extension to Imbesi's Law of the Conservation of Filth)

In order to discover anything, you must be looking for something.

In order to get a loan you must first prove that you don't need it. (John's Collateral Corollary)

In order to make sure that the pancake lands buttered side on top, one should butter the both sides.

In precise mathematical terms, $1 + 1 = 2$, where '=' is a symbol meaning 'seldom if ever'. (Addendum to Murphy's Law)

In simple cases, presenting one obvious right way versus one obvious wrong way, it is often wiser to choose the wrong way, so as to expedite subsequent revision. (Fyfe's First Law of Revision - Corollary I)

In specifications, Murphy's Law supersedes Ohm's. (Klipstein's Law of specification)

In the old days, we had wooden ships ruled by iron men. Now we have steel ships and blockheads running them. Capt. D. Seymour

In time, every post tends to be occupied by an employee who is incompetent to carry out its duties. (First Corollary to the Peter Principle)

Inasmuch as the mathematical theorems are related to reality, they are not sure; inasmuch as they are sure, they are not related to reality. (Einstein's Observation)

Incoming fire has the right of way. (Murphy's Second Rule of combat), (Murphy's Fourth Military Law)

Incompetence plus incompetence equals incompetence. (Peter's Theorem)

Indecision is the basis for flexibility. (Schroeder's Law)

Industry always moves in to fill an economic vacuum. (Tuccille's First Law of Reality)

Information deteriorates upward through bureaucracies. (Rule of Defactualization)

Information necessitating a change of design will be conveyed to the designer after - and only after - the design is complete. (Often called the 'Now They Tell Us' Law) (Fyfe's First Law of Revision)

Inside every large problem is a small problem struggling to get out. (Hoare's Law of Large Problems)

Inside every small problem is a large problem struggling to get out. (Second Law of Blissful Ignorance; The Schainker Converse to Hoare's Law of Large Problems)

Installation and Operating Instructions shipped with the device will be promptly discarded by the Receiving Department. (The Fourteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Instruction booklets are lost by the Goods Delivery Service. If not, they are listed in four languages: Japanese, Thai, Swahili and Moghol. (Instruction Booklet Governing Principle)

Interchangeable parts won't. (Laws of Assembly, II; The Eleventh Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Interchangeable tapes won't. (Troutman's Fourth Programming Postulate)

Internal consistency is valued more highly than efficient service. (Peter's Inversion)

Investment in reliability will increase until it exceeds the probable cost of errors, or until someone insists on getting some useful work done. (Gilb's Fourth Law of Unreliability)

It ain't necessarily so. (Gershwin's Law)

It always takes longer than you expect, even if you take into account Hofstadter's Law (Hofstadter's Law)

It always takes longer to get there than to get back. (First Law of Travel)

It costs a lot to build bad products. (Law Number XII)

It has yet to be proven that intelligence has any survival value. (Arthur C. Clarke's Law)

It is a fundamental law of nature that nothing ever quite works out. (Murphy's Seventh Law)

It is a grave error to allow any mechanical device to realize that you are in a hurry.

It is a mistake to allow any mechanical object to realize you are in a hurry. (Murphy's Thirty-first Law)

It is a mistake to let any mechanical object realise that you are in a hurry. (Ralph's Observation)

It is a simple task to make things complex, but a complex task to make them simple. (Meyer's Law)

It is always the partner's fault.

It is better to solve a problem with a crude approximation and know the truth, +/-10%, than to demand an exact solution and not know the truth at all. (Thumb's First Postulate)

It is easier to be wise for others than for oneself. *La Rochefoucauld*

It is easier to descend than to ascend. *Gruter*

It is easier to fall than to rise. *Thomas Draxe*

It is easier to fight for principles than live up to them. *Alfred Adler*

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission. (Stewart's Law of Retroaction)

It is easier to make a commitment or to get involved in something than to get out of. (Murphy's Eighth Law)

It is easier to praise poverty than to bear it.

It is easier to pull down than to build.

It is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end.

It is easier to run down a hill than up one.

It is easier to take it apart than to put it back together. *Washlesky*

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance. *Aesop*

It is impossible for an optimist to be pleasantly surprised. (Coit-Murphy's Statement on the Power of Negative Thinking)

It is impossible to make anything foolproof, because fools are so ingenious. (Eighth corollary to Murphy's Law)

It is morally wrong to allow a naive person to keep their money. (Salesman's Motto)

It is morally wrong to allow a sucker to keep his money.

It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics. (Knebel's Law)

It is often easier to find the truth than it is to accept it.

It is the dead wood that holds up the tree. (Young's Second Law)

It is usually impractical to worry beforehand about interferences - if you have none, someone will make one for you. (Fourth Law of Revision), (Fyfe's Third Law of Revision - Corollary I)

It is when you trip over your own shoes that you start picking up shoes. (Young's Third Law)

It may eliminate the job if the need passes before the job can be done. (Sixth Law of Procrastination)

It reduces anxiety by reducing the expected quality of the project from the best of all possible efforts to the best that can be expected given the limited time. (Second Law of Procrastination)

It requires less energy to take an object out of its proper place than to put it back. (MacPherson's Theory of Entropy)

It takes children three years to learn Paul's Law (You can't fall off the floor). (Chapman's Commentary on Paul's Law)

It takes longer to glue a vase together than to break one. (First Example of Drazen's Law of Restitution)

It takes longer to lose 'X' number of pounds than to gain 'X' number of pounds. (Second Example of Drazen's Law of Restitution)

It won't work. (Jenkinson's Law)

It works better if you plug it in. (Sattinger's Law)

It's always the partner's fault. (First Law of Bridge)

It's amazing how long it takes to complete something you are not working on. (McGee's First Law)

It's better to have a horrible ending than to have horrors without end. (Matsch's Law)

It's difficult to soar with eagles when you work with turkeys. (Langsam's Ornithological Axiom)

It's easier to get forgiveness than it is to get permission. (Stewart's Law of Retroaction)

It's morally wrong to allow suckers to keep their money. (Canada Bill Jones's Motto)

It's on the other side. (Preudhomme's Law of Window Cleaning)

It's still a mystery why three turn up at once. (Bus Travel Law VII)

It's tough to get reallocated when you're the one who's redundant. (MacDonald's First Law)

It's worth scheming to be the bearer of good news. (Fox on Yesmanship)

Jet lag accumulates unit directionally towards maximum difficulty to perform. (Law of Promotional Tours)

Job control cards that positively cannot be arranged in an improper order will be. (Troutman's Third Programming Postulate)

Journalists are a less than dependable source of accurate quotes. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1E)

Junk mail arrives the day it was sent. (Second Law of Postal Delivery)

Just because it is still standing, doesn't mean it is not dead. (Corollary to Young's Second Law)

Just because your doctor has a name for your condition doesn't mean he knows what it is. (First Principle for Patients)

Justice is incidental to law and order. *J. Edgar Hoover*

Keep in mind always the two constant Laws of Frisbee: 1) The most powerful force in the world is that of a disc straining to land under a car, just out of reach (this force is technically termed car suck). 2) Never precede any maneuver by a comment more predictive than Watch this!

Knowledge based on external evidence is unreliable. (Steiner's First Precept)

Law expands in proportion to the resources available for its enforcement. (Oaks' First Principle of Lawmaking)

Law stands mute in the midst of arms.

Law, without force, is impotent. *Pascal*

Laws are dumb in the midst of arms. *Cicero*

Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little one got caught. Honoré de Balzac

Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law. *Goldsmith*

Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse. (Fifth corollary to Murphy's Law)

Leftover nuts never match leftover bolts. (Murphy's Twenty-third Law; Third Workshop Principle)

Legalise polygamy. (Catch Phrase of Golomb's Sixth Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards. (Kierkegaard's Observation)

Life is a whole series of circumstances beyond your control. (Van Roy's Truism)

Life is the only game in which the object of the game is to learn the rules.

Line Printer paper is strongest at the perforations.

Liquidity tends to run out. (Spencer's Third Law of Accountancy)

Listen intently while others are arguing the problem. Pounce on a trite statement and bury them with it. (Spark's Fifth Rule for the Project Manager)

Logic can never decide what is possible or impossible. (Steiner's Second Precept)

Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence. (Manley's Maxim)

Logic is an organized way of going wrong with confidence. (Kettering's Law)

Look after the molehills, and the mountains will look after themselves. (Peter's Law of Substitution)

Love letters, business contracts and money you are due always arrive three weeks late. (First Law of Postal Delivery)

Machines should work; people should think. (IBM Pollyanna Principle)

Machines that have broken down will work perfectly when the repairman arrives. (Third Corollary to the Law of Office Murphology)

Major changes in construction will always be requested after fabrication is nearly completed. (The Ninth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Majority: That quality that distinguishes a crime from a law.

Make it tough enough for the enemy to get in and you won't be able to get out. (Murphy's Sixteenth Rule of combat)

Man and nations will act rationally when all other possibilities have been exhausted. (Katz' Law)

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on. (Churchill's Commentary on Man)

Management can't. (Brooks Second Law of Retailing)

Manufacturer's specifications of performance should be multiplied by a factor of 0.5. (The Twelfth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Mass man must be served by mass means. (Price's Second Law)

Matter will be damaged in direct proportion to its value. (Murphy's Constant)

Measure with a micrometer. Mark with chalk. Cut with an axe. (Ray's Rule for Precision)

Measure twice because you can cut only once. (Murphy's Thirty-fourth Law)

Memory serves its own master. (Feinberg's Second Principle)

Men and nations will act rationally when all other possibilities have been exhausted. (Katz's Law)

Milking a cow is an operation demanding a special talent that is possessed only by yokels, and no person born in a large city can never hope to acquire it. (Mencken and Nathan's Sixteenth Law of The Average American)

Most people are too stupid to butter the pancake on the right side.

Most people deserve each other. (Shirley's Law)

Most projects require three hands. (Second Workshop Principle)

Most things get steadily worse. (Issawi's Course of Progress)

Most well-trodden paths lead nowhere. (First Rule of Pathology)

Mother Nature is a bitch. (Tenth corollary to Murphy's Law)

Multiple-function gadgets will not perform any function adequately. (First Law of Kitchen Confusion)

Multiplicity is not to be asserted when it is unnecessary (Pluralitas non ponenda est sine necessitate).
William of Occam (Occam's Razor)

Murphy never met anyone he didn't meet. (Murphy's Twenty-first Rule of combat)

Murphy was an optimist. (O'Toole's commentary on Murphy's Law)

Murphy's Law isn't recursive. Washing your car to make it rain doesn't work.

Murphy's Law was not propounded by Murphy, but by another man of the same name. (Nagler's Comment on the Origin of Murhy's Law)

Mysticism is based on the assumption that you can quit the game. (Freeman's Commentary on Ginsberg's Third Theorem)

'n+1' trivial tasks are expected to be accomplished in the same time as 'n' tasks. (Gray's Law of Programming)

'n+1' trivial tasks take twice as long as 'n' trivial tasks. (Logg's Rebuttal to Gray's Law)

Nature abhors a hero. For one thing, he violates the law of conservation of energy. For another, how can it be the survival of the fittest when the fittest keeps putting himself in situations where he is most likely to be creamed? *Solomon Short*

Nature abhors a vacuous experimenter. (Campbell's Law)

Nature abhors people. (Thine's Law)

Nature always sides with the hidden flaw. (Ninth corollary to Murphy's Law; Benedict's Principle)

Nature and nature's laws lay hid in night, God said, Let Newton be, and all was light. - It did not last; the devil howling Ho! Let Einstein be! restored the status quo.

Nature will tell you a direct lie if she can. (Darwin's Law)

Nature will tell you a direct lie if she can. So will Darwinists. (Bloch's Extension to Darwin's Law)

Necessity has no law; I know some attorneys of the same. *Franklin*

Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows. (Farber's Fourth Law)

Negative expectations yield negative results. Positive expectations yield negative results. (Non-Reciprocal Laws of Expectations)

Negative slack tends to increase. (Wynne's Law)

Never argue with a fool - people might not know the difference. (First Law of Debate)

Never argue with a man who buys ink by the barrel. (Greener's Law)

Never argue with fabricating plant about an error. The inspection prints are all checked off, even to the holes that aren't there. (Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

Never ask a barber if you need a haircut. (Murray's First Law)

Never ask a salesman if his is a good price. (Murray's Second Law)

Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity. (Hanlon's Razor)

Never be first. (Lackland's First Law)

Never be last. (Lackland's Second Law)

Never bet on a loser because you think his luck is bound to change. (Las Vegas Law)

Never buy from a rich salesman. (Goldenstern's Second Rule)

Never change your plans because of the weather. (Kent Family Law)

Never characterize the importance of a statement in advance. (Ross's Law)

Never conduct negotiations before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Before 10 you appear too anxious, and after 4 they think you're desperate. (Eddie's First Law of Business)

Never copy what you can trace. (Second Rule of Creative Research; Wallace Wood's Second Rule of Drawing)

Never create a problem for which you do not have the answer. (Burke's Rule)

Never do anything you wouldn't be caught dead doing. (Rockefeller's Principle)

Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with. (The Poker Principle; Murphy's Forty-fourth Law)

Never draw fire, it irritates everyone around you. (Murphy's Fourteenth Rule of combat)

Never draw what you can copy. (First Rule of Creative Research; Wallace Wood's First Rule of Drawing)

Never eat rutabaga on any day of the week that has a "y" in it. (Pecor's Health-Food Principle)

Never forget that your weapon is made by the lowest bidder. (Murphy's Twentieth Rule of combat)

Never get caught between two bureaucracies. (Corollary to Fox Law on Bureaucracy)

Never get excited about a blind date because of how it sounds over the phone. (Gillenson's First Law of Expectation)

Never get excited about a person because of what it looks like from behind. (Gillenson's Second Law of Expectation)

Never get excited over how people look from behind. (Gillenson's Law of Expectation)

Never invest in anything that eats. (Seymour's Investment Principle)

Never leave hold of what you've got until you've got hold of something else. (Hertzberg's First Law of Wing Walking)

Never let your major professor know that you exist. (Meredith's Law for Graduate School Survival)

Never let your sense of morals interfere with doing the right thing. (Clarke's Conclusion)

Never make a decision you can get someone else to make. (Pfeifer's Principle)

Never open a can of worms unless you plan to go fishing. (Kaiser's Comment on Zymurgy)

Never play leapfrog with a Unicorn. (Murphy's Law)

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today. There might be a law against it by that time.

Never replicate a successful experiment. (Fett's Law of the Lab)

Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself. (Murphy's Seventeenth Rule of combat),
(Murphy's First Military Law)

Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself. (Hartley's Second Law)

Never solve a problem from its original perspective. (Ninth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

Never speculate on that which can be. (De Nevers' Lost Law)

Never step in anything soft. (Murphy's Thirtieth Law)

Never sure how many beers you had last night. (Heineken Uncertainty Principle)

Never test for an error condition you don't know how to handle. (Steinbach's Guideline for Systems Programming)

Never trace what you can cut out and paste down. (Third Rule of Creative Research; Wallace Wood's Third Rule of Drawing)

Never try to pacify someone at the height of his rage. (The Ire Principle)

Never volunteer for anything (Lackland's Third Law)

Never walk down a hallway in an office building without a piece of paper in your hand. (Scott's Law of Business)

Never worry about the bullet with your name on it. Instead, worry about shrapnel addressed to 'occupant'. (Murphy's Tenth Military Law)

New systems generate new problems. (The Fundamental Theorem)

Nice guys don't finish nice. (Kelly's Reformation of Levy's Third Law)

No amount of genius can overcome a preoccupation with detail. (Levy's Eighth Law)

No books are lost by lending except those you particularly wanted to keep. (Atwood's Fourteenth Corollary)

No executive devotes effort to proving himself wrong. (Third Truth of Management)

No experiment is a complete failure - it can always serve as a negative example. (Futility Law)

No experiment is ever a complete failure - it can always serve as a negative example. (Futility Factor)

No experiment is reproducible. (Wyszowski's First Law)

No good deed goes unpunished. (Brewer's Observation)

No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session. (Jacquin's Postulate on Democratic Government)

No matter how careful one is in resealing the inner liner in a cereal box, it will tear where it is glued to the box. (Stale's Law)

No matter how great your triumphs or how tragic your defeats - approximately one billion Chinese couldn't care less. (Lazlo's Chinese Relativity Axiom)

No matter how large the work space, if two projects must be done at the same time they will require the use of the same part of the work space. (Corollary to the Einstein Extension of Parkinson's Law)

No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it it will be on sale somewhere cheaper. (Lewis's Law)

No matter how many reporters share a cab, and no matter who pays, each puts the full fare on his own expense account. (Doyle's Corollary to Weaver's Law)

No matter how many share a cab, each puts the full fare on their expense account. (Doyle's Law)

No matter how minor the task, you will inevitably end up covered with grease and motor oil. (Bromberg's Second Law of Automotive Repair)

No matter how much you do, you'll never do enough. (Worker's First Dilemma)

No matter how strong the breeze when you leave the dock, once you have reached the furthest point from port the wind will die. (Deal's Second Sailing Law)

No matter how well you perform your job, a superior will seek to modify the results. (Aigner's Axiom)

No matter the amount of care given the purchased object, it will fuse/explode/disassemble within three (3) days of warranty expiration. (Gordon's Object Lifespan Theorem)

No matter what goes wrong, it will probably look right. (Scott's first Law)

No matter what goes wrong, there is always somebody who knew it would. (Evans' and Bjorn's Law)

No matter what results are expected, someone is always willing to fake it.

No matter what the anticipated result, there will always be someone eager to (a) misinterpret it, (b) fake it, or (c) believe it happened according to his own pet theory. (Finagle's second Law)

No matter what the result, there is always someone eager to misinterpret it. (Third Law)

No matter what they're talking about, they're talking about money. (Todd's Second Political Principle)

No matter what they're telling you, it's not the whole truth. (Todd's Second Law)

No matter what they're telling you, they're not telling the whole truth. (Todd's First Political Principle)

No matter what you tell your child to do, he will always do the opposite. (Cosby's First Law of Intergenerational Perversity)

No matter where you go, there you are! (Oliver's Law of Location)

No matter which side of the door the cat or dog is on, it's the wrong side. (The Pet Principle)

No matter which way you ride, it's uphill and against the wind. (First Law of Bicycling)

No name, no matter how simple, can be correctly understood over the phone. (Murphy's Twenty-first Law)

No one is listening until you make a mistake. (Vile's Law for Educators)

No one keeps a record of decisions you could have made but didn't. Everyone keeps a record of your bad ones. (Corollary to Pfeifer's Principle)

No one told me to go ahead. (Fourth Handy Office Excuse)

No paper, once written, remains unpublished. (Chargaff's Rule)

No project was ever completed on time and within budget. (Cheops Law)

No real problem has a solution. (Smith's Law)

No two identical parts are alike. (Beach's Law)

Nobody ever gives up their seat to you. (Bus Travel Law VIII)

Nobody ever has a reservation on a plane that leaves from Gate 1.

Nobody notices the big errors. (Mayne's Law)

Nobody notices when things go right. (Zimmerman's Law of Complaints)

Nobody really cares or understands what anyone else is doing. (Law of the Individual)

Nobody really knows what is going on anywhere within the organization. (Johnson's Corollary to Heller's Law)

Nobody wants to read anyone else's formulas. (Finman's Law of Mathematics)

Not until a program has been in production for at least six months will the most harmful error be discovered. (Troutman's Second Programming Postulate)

Nothing can be done in one trip. (Snider's Law)

Nothing ever comes out as planned. (Seay's Law)

Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget. (Cheops's Law)

Nothing ever goes away. (Commoner's Second Law of Ecology)

Nothing improves an innovation like lack of controls. (Muench's Law)

Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad check. (Slick's First Law of the Universe)

Nothing is always. (Langsam's Second Law)

Nothing is as easy as it looks. (First corollary to Murphy's First Law)

Nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come. (Tusman's Law)

Nothing is as permanent as that which is called temporary. (Corollary to Jose's Axiom)

Nothing is as simple as it first seems.

Nothing is as temporary as that which is called permanent. (Jose's Axiom)

Nothing is ever a complete failure; it can always serve as a bad example.

Nothing is ever accomplished by a reasonable man. (Bucy's Law)

Nothing is ever done for the right reasons. (O'Brien's Law)

Nothing is ever so bad it can't be made worse by firing the coach. (Murray's Rule of Football; Murray's First Rule of the Arena)

Nothing is ever so bad that it can't get worse. (Gattuso's Extension of Murphy's Law)

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself. (Weiler's Law)

Nothing is so good that somebody, somewhere, will not hate it. (Pohl's law)

Nothing looks as good close up as it does from far away. Or – nothing looks as good from far away as it does close up. (Law of Observation)

Nothing matters very much, and very few things matter at all. (Lord Balfour's Contention)

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

Numbers are hard to keep straight. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1B)

Obtain a brilliant assignment, but keep out of sight and out of the limelight. (Spark's Seventh Rule for the Project Manager)

Of course I'll respect you in the morning. (The Second Least Credible Sentence in the English Language)

Of two possible events, only the undesired one will occur. (Dude's Law Duality)

Office machines which function perfectly during normal business hours will break down when you return to the office at night to use them for personal business. (Second Corollary to the Law of Office Morphology)

Officials make work for each other. (Parkinson's Second Axiom)

Omit needless words! Omit needless words! Omit needless words! E. B. White (Rule Seventeen)

On its way to the corner, any dropped tool will always first strike your toes. (The Corollary to Anthony's Law of the Workshop)

On the way to the corner, a dropped tool will land on your foot.

Once a dish I fouled up, anything added to save it only makes it worse. (Fourth Law of Kitchen Confusion)

Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it only makes it worse. (Finagle's fourth Law)

Once a misfit leaves another will be recruited. (Corollary to Owen's Theory of Organisational Deviance)

Once the way to screw up a project is presented for consideration it will invariably be accepted as the soundest solution. (Mitchell's Second Law of Committology)

Once you have exhausted all possibilities and fail, there will be one solution, simple and obvious, highly visible to everyone else. (Third Snafu Equation)

Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a bigger can. (Zymurgy's First Law of Evolving Systems Dynamics)

Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can. (Zymurgy's Law of Evolving Systems Dynamics)

One child is not enough, but two are far too many. (O'Toole's Axiom)

One man's error is another man's data. (Berman's Corollary to Roberts' Axiom)

Only a bureaucracy can fight a bureaucracy. (The Bureaucracy Principle)

Only a fool can reproduce another fool's work. (Freivald's Law)

Only adults have difficulty with child-proof bottles. (Third Principle for Patients)

Only errors exist. (Roberts' Axiom)

Only God can make a random selection. (Levy's Ninth Law)

Only new categories escape the stereotyped thinking associated with old abstractions. (McClellan's Law of Cognition)

Only useless documentation transcends the first two laws. (Arnold's Third Law of Documentation)

Opportunity always knocks at the least opportune time. (Murphy's Twenty-seventh Law; Ducharme's Precept)

Other people's romantic gestures seem novel and exciting. Your own romantic gestures seem foolish and clumsy. (Arthur's Third Law of Love)

Other people's tools work only in other people's gardens. (First Law of Gardening)

Our chief want in life is somebody who shall make us do what we can. Having found them, we shall then hate them for it. (Emerson's Law of Contrariness)

Our customer's paperwork is profit. Our own paperwork is loss. (Brown's Law of Business Success)

Our problems are mostly behind us. What we have to do now is fight the solutions. (Stult's Report)

Overdoing things is harmful in all cases, even when it comes to efficiency. (Bunuel's Law)

Paper is always strongest at the perforations. *Corry*

Particularly quotable figures receive more than their share of quotable quotes. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2B)

Parts that positively cannot be assembled in improper order will be. (The Tenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Pass the list. (Pavlu's Third Rule for Economy in Research)

People are always available for work in the past tense. (Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor)

People are always available to work in the past tense. (Murphy's Twenty-sixth Law)

People are divided into two groups – the righteous and the unrighteous – and the righteous do the dividing. (Cohen's Second Law)

People are idiots. (The Dilbert Principle)

People in systems do not do what the system says they are doing. (The Functionary's Falsity)

People specialize in their area of greatest weakness. (The Lippman Lemma)

People tend to make rules for others and exceptions for themselves.

People to whom you are attracted invariably think you remind them of someone else. (Arthur's First Law of Love)

People who are resistant to change cannot resist change for the worst. (Rule of the Open Mind)

People who aren't going to go any faster than the speed limit really ought to put their hazard lights on. (Nibble's Rules Of The Road, #19)

People who can least afford to pay rent, pay rent. People who can most afford to pay rent, build up equity. (Perlsweig's Law)

People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't. (Ozman's Law)

People who love sausage and respect the law should never watch either one being made. (The Sausage Principle)

People will buy anything that's one to a customer. (Lewis' Law)

People working in the private sector should try to save money. There remains the possibility that it may someday be valuable again. (Law Number LII)

Personnel recruiting is a triumph of hope over experience. (Loftus' Second Theory on Personnel Recruitment)

Persons disagreeing with your facts are always emotional and employ faulty reasoning. (Murphy's Fourteenth Law)

Philosophers who make the general claim that a rule simply 'reduces to' its formulations are using Occam's razor to cut the throat of common sense. R. Harris

Pizza always burns the roof of your mouth. (Ozman's Law)

Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents. (William Safire's 11th Rule for Writers)

Plays that work in theory do not work in practice. Plays that work in practice do not work during the game. (Law of Practice)

Possessions increase to fill the space available for their storage. (Ryan's Application of Parkinson's Law)

Procedures devised to implement the purpose won't quite work. (Third Corollary to Chisholm's Third Law)

Procrastination avoids boredom; one never has the feeling that there is nothing important to do. (Fifth Law of Procrastination)

Procrastination shortens the job and places the responsibility for its termination on someone else (the authority who imposed the deadline). (First Law of Procrastination)

Professionals are predictable, it's the amateurs that are dangerous. (Murphy's Seventh Rule of combat)

Program complexity grows until it exceeds the capability of the programmer who must maintain it. (Seventh Law of Computer Programming)

Progress consists in replacing a theory that is wrong with one more subtly wrong. (Hawkins' Theory)

Progress does not consist in replacing a theory that is wrong with one that is right. It consists in replacing a theory that is wrong with one that is more subtly wrong. (Hawkins' Theory of Progress)

Progress is made on alternate Fridays. (Weinberg's First Law)

Progress may have been all right once, but it went on too long. (Ogden Nash's Law)

Project teams detest weekly progress reporting because it so vividly manifests their lack of progress. (Fourth Law of Computerdom according to Golub)

Proofread carefully to see if you words out. (William Safire's 5th Rule for Writers)

Proposals, as understood by the proposer, will be judged otherwise by others. (Chisholm's Third Law)

Prototype npn blackboxes actually hold pnp transistors, and vice-versa. (Vuilleumier's Fifth Law)

Pure drivel tends to drive off the TV screen ordinary drivel. (Kitman's Law)

Pure drivel tends to drive ordinary drivel off the TV screen. (Kitman's Law)

Push something hard enough and it will fall over. (Fudd's First Law of Opposition)

Quality assurance doesn't. (Robertson's Law)

Quality is inversely proportional to the time left for completion of the project. (Wright's First Law of Quality)

Quantity = 1 / Quality; or, quality is inversely proportional to quality. (The Chi Factor)

Rank does not intimidate hardware. Neither does the lack of rank. (Law Number XXVII)

Reality is the flaw in the perfection of nothingness.

Red lights always last longer than green lights.

Regardless of the units used by either the supplier or the customer, the manufacturer shall use his own arbitrary units convertible to those of either the supplier or the customer only by means of weird and unnatural conversion factors. (Wyszkowski's Theorem)

Regulations grow at the same rate as weeds. (Law Number XLIX)

Remember to never split an infinitive. (William Safire's 1st Rule for Writers)

Remember, too, a preposition is a terrible word to end a sentence with. (William Safire's 9th Rule for Writers)

Repetition does not establish validity. (Souder's Law)

Research scientists are so wrapped up in their own narrow endeavours that they cannot possibly see the whole picture of anything, including their own research. (Whole Picture Principle)

Responsibility always exceeds authority. (Kinkler's First Law)

Return on investments won't. (Spencer's Fourth Law of Accountancy)

Sale promotions don't. (Brooks Third Law of Retailing)

Salespeople's claims for performance should be multiplied by a factor of 0.25. (The Thirteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Save all the parts. (First Rule of Intelligent Tinkering)

Say no, then negotiate. (Helga's Rule)

Security isn't. (Brooks First Law of Retailing)

Service Conditions as given on specifications will be exceeded. (The Sixteenth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Serving coffee on an aircraft causes turbulence. (Davis' Answer to Roger's Law; Davis' Explanation of Rogers' Law)

Severe enforcement of a bad law will hasten its repeal. Corollary - faith and morality cannot be legislated. Lawrence L. Hirsch

Set working methods in complicated rules and numerous authorizations. Nothing will therefore happen, for which no blame can be put on you. (Soviet Method)

Sex in the sixties is great, but it improves if you pull over to the side of the road. (Johnny Carson's Observation on Geriatrics)

Shredded cabbage goes great with shredded carrots and mayonnaise. (Cole's Law)

Simple jobs always get put off because there will be time to do them later. (Dehay's Axiom)

Skim the required reading. (Second Rule for College Survival)

Skip everything else. Write vague, spineless papers. Cram. (Third Rule for College Survival)

Small changes can have a big impact (or: what a difference an a makes). (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1C)

Smile... tomorrow will be worse. (Murphy's Philosophy)

Social legislation cannot repeal physical laws. (Oaks' Third Principle of Lawmaking)

Socialism is based on the assumption that you can break even. (Freeman's Commentary on Ginsberg's Second Theorem)

Society is a mule, not a car... If pressed too hard, it will kick and throw off its rider. (Issawi's Pace of Progress)

Software is like entropy. It is difficult to grasp, weighs nothing, and obeys the Second Law of Thermodynamics; i.e., it always increases. (Law Number XVII)

Some errors will always go unnoticed until the book is in print. (Jones' Law of Publishing)

Some people manage by the book, even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book. (Loftus' Fifth Law of Management)

Sooner or later, the worst possible set of circumstances is bound to occur. (Sodd's Second Law)

Souffles rise and cream whips only for the family and for guests you didn't really want to invite anyway. (Alice Hammond's First Law of the Kitchen)

Sow your wild oats on Saturday night, then on Sunday pray for crop failure. (Farmer's Credo)

Speak with authority; however, only expound on the obvious and proven facts. (Spark's Third Rule for the Project Manager)

Spend sufficient time confirming the need and the need will disappear. (Ed's Fifth Rule of Procrastination; Peter's Prognosis)

Status is gained in the eyes of others, and in one's own eyes, because it is assumed that the importance of the work justifies the stress. (Third Law of Procrastination)

Stay in with the outs. (First Law of Politics)

Stores that sell Volume One will not know of Volume Two. (Riley's First Murphy Law)

Stores that sell Volume Two will be out of Volume One. (Riley's Second Murphy Law)

Strive to look tremendously important. (Spark's First Rule for the Project Manager)

Success always occurs in private, and failure in full public view. (Lowe's Law)

Successful research attracts the bigger grant which makes further research impossible. (Parkinson's Law for Medical Research)

Super-competence is more objectionable than incompetence. (Peter's Observation)

Superiority is recessive. (Underlying Principle of Socio-Genetics)

Surprise! You are the lucky winner of random I.R.S Audit! Just type in your name and social security number. Please remember that leaving the room is punishable under law: Name#

Switching back screws up both lines and makes everybody angry. (Kenton's Corollary to O'Brian's Variation on Etorre's Observation)

Systems should not be unnecessarily multiplied. (Corollary to The Fundamental Theorem)

Systems tend to grow, and as they grow, they encroach. (The Generalized Uncertainty Principle)

Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors. (William Safire's 14th Rule for Writers)

Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else. (Finagle's Eighth Rule)

Teamwork is essential. It gives them someone else to shoot at. (Murphy's Ninth Rule of combat)

Technology don't transfer. (Stenton's Law)

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

Technology is dominated by two types of people: Those who understand what they do not manage. Those who manage what they do not understand. (Putt's Law)

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.

That component of any circuit which has the shortest service life will be placed in the least accessible location. (Gore's Second Law of Design Engineering)

That quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to, or subtracted from the answer you get, gives you the answer you should have gotten. (Skinner's Constant; Flannagan's Finagling Factor)

That segment of the community with which one has the greatest sympathy as a liberal inevitably turns out to be one of the most narrow-minded and bigoted segments of the community. (Levy's Third Law)

That which cannot be taken apart will fall apart. (Rucnickis's Rule)

That's his job, not mine. (Seventh Handy Office Excuse)

That's not my department. (Third Handy Office Excuse)

That's the way we've always done it. (First Handy Office Excuse)

The accessibility, during recovery of small parts which fall from the work bench, varies directly with the size of the part – and inversely with its importance to the completion of work underway. (The Spare Parts Principle)

The advance of science can be measured by the rate at which exceptions to previously held laws accumulate. (First Law of Scientific Progress)

The adverb always follows the verb. (William Safire's 18th Rule for Writers)

The amount of expertise varies in inverse proportion to the number of statements understood by the general public. (Gummidge's Law)

The amount of flak received on any subject is inversely proportional to the subject's true value. (Potter's Law)

The amount of time required to complete a government project is precisely equal to the length of time already spent on it. (Chism's Law of Completion)

The amount of wind varies inversely with the number and experience of the crew. (Deal's Sailing Law)

The amount of wind will vary inversely with the number and experience of the people you take on board. (Deal's First Sailing Law)

The amount of work done varies inversely with the time spent in the office.

The amount of work to be done increases in proportion to the amount of work already completed. (Vail's second axiom)

The answer to your problem "pre-exists". You need to ask the right question to reveal the answer. (Seventh Creative Rule of The Thumb)

The army with the smartest dress uniform will lose. (Murphy's Fifth Military Law)

The bag that breaks is the one with the eggs. (Woodside's Grocery Principle)

The basic building blocks of matter do not occur in nature. (Second Law of Particle Physics)

The belief that enhanced understanding will necessarily stir a nation to action is one of mankind's oldest illusions. (Hacker's Law)

The best approximation of service conditions in the laboratory will not begin to meet those conditions encountered in actual service. (The Fourth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

The best laid plans of mice and men are usually about equal. (Blair's Observation)

The best parts of anything are always impossible to remove from the worst parts. (The Pineapple Principle)

The best simple-minded test of expertise in a particular area is the ability to win money in a series of bets on future occurrences in that area. (Allison's Precept)

The best theory is not *ipso facto* a good theory. (Macbeth's Comment on Evolution)

The best way to get great ideas is to get lots of ideas and throw the bad ones away. (First Creative Rule of The Thumb)

The best way to inspire fresh thoughts is to seal the letter. (The Law of the Letter)

The best way to succeed in politics is to find a crowd that's going somewhere and get in front of them. (Brown's Second Rule of Leadership)

The bigger they are, the harder they hit. (Perkins' Postulate)

The book you spent \$10,95 for today will come out in paperback tomorrow. (Pantuso's First Law)

The boss who attempts to impress employees with his knowledge of intricate details has lost sight of his final objective. (Gottlieb's Rule)

The brain works from the moment of birth until you stand up to speak in public.

The chance of forgetting something is directly proportional to... to... uh... (Hurewitz's Memory Principle)

The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet. (Jenning's Corollary to the Law of Selective Gravity)

The chances of anybody doing anything are inversely proportional to the number of other people who are in a position to do it instead. (Kushner's Law)

The changes will not be mentioned in the service manual. (Corollary to Gore's First Law of Design Engineering)

The chaos in the universe always increases. (General Law)

The cheque is in the mail. (The First Least Credible Sentence in the English Language)

The chief cause of problems is solutions. (Sevareid's Law)

The client who pays the least complains the most. (Drew's Law of Professional Practice)

The closer you are to the facts of a situation, the more obvious are the errors in all news coverage of the situation. (First Law of Truth in Reporting)

The closest library doesn't have the material you need. (Hansen's Library Axiom)

The colder the X-Ray table, the more of your body you are required to place on it. (Edds' Law of Radiology)

The compromise will always be more expensive than either of the suggestions it is compromising. (Juhani's Law)

The "CONSUMER REPORT" on the item will come out a week after you buy the item. (Beryl's Law)

The "Consumer Report" on the item will come out a week after you've made your purchase. (Beryl's Law)

The cream rises to the top. So does the scum. (Wellington's Law of Command)

The CTA has complimentary pop-up timers available on request for overheated passengers. When your timer pops up, the driver will cheerfully baste you. (Chicago Transit Authority Rider's Rule #84)

The deadline is one week after the original deadline. (Harbour's Law)

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

The degree to which you over-react to information will be in inverse proportion to its accuracy. (Weatherwax's Postulate)

The difference between the Laws of Nature and Murphy's Law is that with the Laws of Nature you can count on things screwing up the same way every time. (The Reliability Principle)

The Director of Research should know as little as possible about the specific subject of research he is administering. (Corollary to the Whole Picture Principle)

The distance to the gate is inversely proportional to the time available to catch your flight. (Kauffman's First Law of Airports)

The easier it is to do, the harder it is to change. (Eng's Principle)

The easy way is always mined. (Murphy's Fifth Rule of combat)

The efficiency of a committee meeting is inversely proportional to the number of participants and the time spent on deliberations. (Old and Kahn's Law)

The effort required to correct course increases geometrically with time. (Third Law of Computerdom according to Golub)

The effort to catch a falling, breakable object will produce more destruction than if the object had been allowed to fall in the first place. (Fulton's Law of Gravity)

The elevator always comes after you have put down your bag. (Lynch's Law)

The enemy diversion you have been ignoring will be the main attack. (Murphy's Eleventh Rule of combat)

The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions: a) When you're ready for them, b) When you're not ready for them. (Murphy's Eighth Rule of combat)

The explanation of a disaster will be made by a stand-in. (Sherman's Rule of Press Conferences)

The falsely dramatic drives out the truly dull. (Gennerat's Law)

The farther away the future is, the better it looks. (Finnigan's Law)

The feasibility of an operation is not the best indication for its performance. (Lord Cohen's Comment)

The fewer functions any device is required to perform, the more perfectly it can perform those functions. (The Principle Concerning Multifunctional Devices)

The first bug to hit a clean windshield lands directly in front of your eyes. (Drew's Law of Highway Biology)

The first example of superior principle is always inferior to the developed example of inferior principle. (Law of Superiority)

The first law of success... is concentration - to bend all the energies to one point, and to go directly to that point, looking neither to the right nor to the left. *William Mathews*

The first myth of management is that it exists. (Heller's Law)

The first ninety percent of the task takes ninety percent of the time, and the last ten percent takes the other ninety percent. (Ninety-Ninety Rule of Project Schedules)

The first page the author turns to upon receiving an advance copy will be the page containing the worst error. (Block's Corollary to Jones' Law of Publishing)

The first piece of luggage out of the chute does not belong to anyone, ever. (Lewis's Law of Travel)

The first place to look for anything is the last place you expect to find it. (Murphy's Forty-fifth Law)

The first place to look for anything is the last place you would expect to find it. (Law of the Search)

The first place to look for something is the last place you'd expect to find it. (Law of the Search)

The first pull on the cord ALWAYS sends the drapes in the wrong direction. (Boyle's Other Law)

The first rule of gun fighting is - bring a gun.

The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts. *Paul Ehrlich*

The further away the disaster or accident occurs, the greater the number of dead and injured required for it to become a story. (Fuller's Law of Journalism)

The further away the disaster or accident occurs, the greater the number of dead or injured. (Murphy's Twentieth Law)

The further you are from the facts of a situation, the more you tend to believe news coverage of the situation. (Second Law of Truth in Reporting)

The fussiest person will be the one to get the chipped coffee cup, the glass with lipstick or the hair in the food. (Esther's Law)

The good things in life also cause cancer in laboratory mice and are taxed beyond reality. (Steinkopff's Extension to Pardo's First Postulate)

The greater the cost of putting a plan into operation, the less chance there is of abandoning the plan – even if it subsequently becomes irrelevant. (Bachman's Inevitability Theorem)

The greater the importance of decisions to be made the larger must be the committee assigned to make them. (Murphy's Sixteenth Law)

The greater the magnitude, the less notice will be taken that it does not work. (Corollary to Schrank's First Law)

The hardness of the butter is in direct proportion to the softness of the roll. (Thiessen's Law of Gastronomy)

The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

The hidden flaw never remains hidden. (Law of Revelation)

The higher the level of prestige accorded the people behind the plan, the less chance there is of abandoning it. (Corollary to Bachman's Inevitability Theorem)

The ideal curriculum vitae will turn up one day after the position is filled. (Drummond's Law of Personnel Recruiting)

The incidence of anything worthwhile is either 15-25 percent or 80-90 percent. (LaCombe's Rule of Percentages)

The inevitable result of improved and enlarged communications between different levels in a hierarchy is a vastly increased area of misunderstanding. (Law of Communications)

The inside contact that you have developed at great expense is the first person to be let go in any reorganization. (Joe's Law)

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

The item you had your eye on the minute you walked in will be taken by the person in front of you. (Cafeteria Law)

The label "ALL NEW", "COMPLETELY NEW" or "GREAT NEW" means the price went way up. (Hershiser's Third Rule)

The label "NEW" and/or "IMPROVED" means the price went up. (Hershiser's Second Rule)

The last person who quit or was fired will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong – until the next person quits or is fired. (Sixth Corollary to the Law of Office Morphology)

The law has for its end not justice but peace. *Thomas McKeown*

The Law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich, as well as the poor, to sleep under the bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread. *Anatole France*

The law of gravity was enacted by the British Parliament.

The least experienced fisherman always catches the biggest fish. (Porkingham's Second Law of Sportfishing)

The length of a marriage is inversely proportional to the amount spent on the wedding. (Thoms' Law of Marital Bliss)

The length of a meeting rises with the square of the number of people present. (Shanahan's Law)

The length of a progress report is inversely proportional to the amount of progress. (Sweeney's Law)

The less you enjoy serving on committees, the more likely you are to be pressed to do so. (Second Law of Committo-Dynamics)

The less you have to do, the less time you find to do it in.

The life expectancy of a house plant varies inversely with its price and directly with its ugliness. (Britt's Green Thumb Postulate)

The limits of the possible can only be defined by going beyond them into the impossible. (Clarke's Second Law)

The longer you wait in line, the greater the likelihood that you are in the wrong line. (The Queue Principle)

The longer you wait in line, the greater the likelihood that you are standing in the wrong line. (The Queue Principle)

The love letter you finally got the courage to send will be delayed in the mail long enough for you to make a fool of yourself in person. (Arthur's Second Law of Love)

The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on. (Jones's Law)

The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on. (Jones's Law)

The means justify the means. The approach to a problem is more important than its solution. (Hall's Law)

The memory of bad quality lasts longer than the shock of high prices.

The more an item costs, the farther you have to send it for repairs. (Vile's Law of Value)

The more boring and out-of-date the magazines in the waiting room, the longer you will have to wait for your scheduled appointment. (Second Principle for Patients)

The more carefully you plan a project, the more confusion there is when something goes wrong. (Fourth Workshop Principle)

The more complicated and grandiose the plan, the greater the chance of failure. (Knagg's Derivative of Murphy's Law)

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

The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws. *Tacitus*, 56-120 A.D.

The more crowded the bus the greater the chance of you carrying a large parcel. (Bus Travel Law IV)

The more elaborate and costly the equipment, the greater the chance of having to stop at the fish market on the way home. (Corollary to Porkingham's Second Law of Sportfishing)

The more expensive the gadget, the less often you will use it. (Corollary to the First Law of Kitchen Confusion)

The more general the title of a course, the less you learn from it. (Rominger's First Rule for Students)

The more innocuous the modification appears to be, the further its influence will extend and the more the design will have to be redrawn. (Fyfe's Second Law of Revision)

The more people talk on the phone, the less money they make. (Ozman's Law)

The more proficient one is at procrastination, the less proficient one need be at else. (Doane's First Law of Procrastination)

The more specific a title is, the less you will be able to apply it later. (Rominger's Second Rule for Students)

The more studying you did for the exam, the less sure you are as to which answer they want. (Second Law of Applied Terror)

The more time and energy you put into preparing a meal, the greater the chance your guests will spend the entire meal discussing other meals they have had. (Seventh Law of Kitchen Confusion)

The more trivial your research, the more people will read it and agree. (Hanggi's Law)

The more urgent the need for decision the less apparent is the identity of the decision-maker. (Murphy's Seventeenth Law)

The more vital your research, the less people will understand it. (Corollary to Hanggi's Law)

The more you run over a dead cat, the flatter it gets. (The "Enough Already" Law)

The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map. (Murphy's Third Military Law)

The most delicate component will be dropped. (Rosenfield's Regret)

The most delicate component will be the one to drop. (Klipstein's Corollary to the Law of Selective Gravity)

The most important item in an order will no longer be available. (Yount's First Law of Mail Ordering)

The most important leg of a three legged stool is the one that's missing. (Lyll's Fundamental Observation)

The most interesting paper will be scheduled simultaneously with the second most interesting paper. (Morris' Law of Conferences)

The most interesting results happen only once. (Tenenbaum's Law of Replicability)

The most interesting specimen will not be labeled. (Jones' Law of Zoos and Museums)

The most useless tasks are the most fun to do! (Sutins Law)

The most valuable quotation will be the one for which you cannot determine the source. (Duggan's Law of Scholarly Research)

The most vital dimension on any plan or drawing stands the greatest chance of being omitted. (The Fifth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

The most you can accomplish by working is to break even. (The Second Law of "Thermodynamics")

The mountain gets steeper as you get closer. (Michehl's Rule for Prospective Mountain Climbers)

The mountain looks closer than it is. (Frothingham's Corollary)

The next most important item will be back-ordered for six months. (Yount's Second Law of Mail Ordering)

The night before the English History mid-term, your Biology instructor will assign 200 pages on planarians. (Fourth Law of Applied Terror)

The number of different hypotheses erected to explain a given biological phenomenon is inversely proportional to the available knowledge. (Eddington's Theory)

The number of Laws will expand to fill the publishing space available. (Digiovanni's Law)

The number of minor illnesses among the employees is inversely proportional to the health of the organization. (Johnson's Law)

The number of people in any working group tends to increase regardless of the amount of work to be done. (Parkinson's Fourth Law)

The number of people watching you is proportional to the stupidity of your action. (Murphy's Twenty-ninth Law)

The number of rational hypotheses that can explain any given phenomenon is infinite. (Persig's Postulate)

The obvious answer is always overlooked.

The one course you must take to graduate will not be offered during your last semester. (Seit's Law of Higher Education)

The one course you need for graduation is not offered your last semester. (Seit's Law of Higher Education)

The one day you have the exact fare is the day it goes up. (Bus Travel Law I)

The one day you'd sell your soul for something, souls are a glut. (Mason's First Law of Synergism)

The one ingredient you made a special trip to the store to get will be the one thing your guest is allergic to. (Sixth Law of Kitchen Confusion)

The one piece that the plant forgot to ship is the one that supports 75% of the balance of the shipment. (Law of Applied Confusion)

The one piece that the plant forgot to ship is the one that supports 75% of the balance of the shipment. Not only did the plant forget to ship it; 50% of the time they haven't even made it. (First Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

The one time in the day that you lean back and relax is the one time the Boss walks through the office.
(Theory of Selective Supervision)

The one who does the least work will get the most credit. (Shapiro's Law of Reward)

The one who has the gold makes the rules. (The golden rule of arts and sciences)

The one who least wants to play is the one who will win. (Thomas' Law)

The one who says it cannot be done should never interrupt the one who is doing it. (The Roman Rule)

The one who snores will fall asleep first. (Bedfellow's Rule)

The one wrench or drill bit you need will be the one missing from the tool chest. (First Workshop Principle)

The one you almost bought will be rated "best buy". (Second Corollary to Beryl's Law)

The one you bought will be rated "unacceptable". (First Corollary to Beryl's Law)

The one you want is never the one on sale. (Finman's Bargain Basement Principle)

The only imperfect thing in nature is the human race. (Fowler's Note; Murphy's Twenty-fifth Law)

The only important information in a hierarchy is who knows what. (Gates' Law)

The only measure of a man's usefulness is the extent to which he exercises his talent, according to the laws of his own growth, for the common good. Stanley Kunitz

The only new show worth watching will be cancelled. (Jones' Second Law of TV Programming)

The only people who find what they are looking for in life are the fault-finders. (Foster's Law)

The only perfect science is hind-sight.

The only real errors are human errors. (Last Law of Robotics)

The only thing constant is change.

The only things that start on time are those that you're late for. (Cayo's Law)

The only time in the day that you lean back and relax is the one time the boss walks through the office. (Murphy's Thirty-ninth Law)

The only time to be positive is when you are positive you are wrong. (Holten's Homile)

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible. (Clarke's Second Law)

The only way to make up for being lost is to make record time while you are lost. (The Rule of the Rally)

The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm. (Law of Institutions)

The organization of any bureaucracy is very much like a septic tank – the really big chunks always rise to the top. (Imhoff's Law)

The other line always moves faster.

The other line moves faster. (Etorre's Observation)

The overwhelming pre-requisite for the greatness of an artist is that artist's death. (Thiessen's Law of Art)

The passive voice should never be used. (William Safire's 2nd Rule for Writers)

The person not here is the one working on the problem. (Waldrop's Principle)

The person who buys the most raffle tickets has the least chance of winning. (Murphy's Forty-third Law)

The perversity of the universe tends toward a maximum. (Finagle's Law)

The pills to be taken with meals will be the least appetizing ones. (Fifth Principle for Patients)

The pimples don't appear until the hour before the date. (Ron's First Observation for Teenagers)

The primary function of the design engineer is to make things difficult for the fabricator and impossible for the serviceman. (Gore's First Law of Design Engineering)

The probability of a cat eating its dinner has absolutely nothing to do with the price of the food placed before it. (C.H. Fish's First Law of Animal Behavior)

The probability of a piece of bread falling with the buttered side down is proportional to the cost of the carpet.

The probability of a young man meeting a desirable and receptive young female increases by pyramidal progression when he is already in the company of: (1) a date, (2) his wife, (3) a better looking and richer male friend. (Beifeld's Principle)

The probability of anything happening is in inverse ratio to its desirability. (Gumperson's Law)

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with. (Ruby's Principle of Close Encounters)

The probability of someone watching you is proportional to the stupidity of your action. (Hartley's First Law)

The probability of your alarm not going off increases in direct proportion to the importance of your 8:00am meeting.

The probability that a household pet will raise a fuss to go in or out is directly proportional to the number and importance of your dinner guests. (C.H. Fish's Second Law of Animal Behavior)

The problem with any unwritten law is that you don't know where to go to erase it.

The progress of science varies inversely with the number of journals published. (Parkinson's Sixth Law)

The project engineer will change the design to suit the state-of-the-art. (Corollary to Gore's First Law of Design Engineering)

The quality of a champagne is judged by the amount of noise the cork makes when it is popped. (Mencken and Nathan's Ninth Law of The Average American)

The quality of correlation is inversely proportional to the density of control. (May's Law of Stratigraphy)

The quality of the house brand varies inversely with the size of the supermarket chain. (Law of Supermarkets)

The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small. (Murphy's Ninth Military Law)

The radiologists' national flower is the hedge. (Bernstein's Precept)

The reliability of machinery is inversely proportional to the number and significance of any persons watching it. (Watson's Law)

The remaining work to finish in order to reach your goal increases as the deadline approaches. (Bove's Theorem)

The rotten egg will be the one you break into the cake batter. (Alice Hammond's Second Law of the Kitchen)

The scratch on the record is always through the song you like most. (Ron's Second Observation for Teenagers)

The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that you've got it made. (Glyme's Formula for Success)

The secret to success is sincerity. Once you can fake that, you've got it made. (Glyme's Formula for Success)

The severity of an itch is inversely proportional to your reach.

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach. (Zandra's Law of Biomechanics)

The shorter the life of the particle, the greater it costs to produce. (First Law of Particle Physics)

The shortest distance between two points is under construction. (McGregor's Revised Maxim)

The show you've been looking forward to all week will be preempted. (Jones's Third Law of TV Programming)

The simpler the instructions (e.g. "Press here"), the more difficult it will be to open the package. (Second Law of Kitchen Confusion)

The simplest subjects are the ones you don't know anything about. (De Nevers' Law of Complexity)

The slower one works, the fewer mistakes one makes. (Doane's Second Law of Procrastination)

The slowest checker is always at the quick-check-out lane. (Flugg's Rule)

The smallest interval of time known to man is that which occurs in Manhattan between the traffic signal turning green and the taxi driver behind you blowing his horn. (Johnny Carson's Definition)

The solution to a problem changes the nature of the problem. (Peer's Law)

The solving of a problem lies in finding the solvers. (van Herpen's Law)

The sooner and in more detail you announce the bad news, the better. (White's Chappaquidick Theorem)

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you have to catch up. (Ogden's Law)

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you will have to catch up. (Stenderup's Law)

The source for an unattributed quotation will appear in the most hostile review of your work. (Corollary to Duggan's Law of Scholarly Research)

The speed of an oncoming vehicle is directly proportional to the length of the passing zone. (Reece's Second Law)

The spot you are scrubbing is always on the other side. (Hamilton's Rule for Cleaning Glassware)

The stapler runs out of staples only while you are trying to staple something.

The stationary bus you've run to catch won't leave for another 15 mins. (Bus Travel Law V)

The stomach expands to accommodate the amount of junk food available. (Iske's Teenage Corollary to Parkinson's Law)

The strength of the turbulence is directly proportional to the temperature of your coffee. (Gunter's Second Law of Air Travel)

The strongest part of any paper form is the perforation.

The sum of the intelligence on the planet is a constant; the population is growing (Mr. Cole's Axiom).

The system itself does not do what it says it is doing. (The Operational Fallacy)

The telephone will ring when you are outside the door, fumbling for your keys. (Bess' First Universal Principle)

The tendency of smoke from a cigarette, barbeque, campfire, etc. to drift into a person's face varies directly with that person's sensitivity to smoke. (Murphy's Forty-first Law; Sir Walter's Law)

The territory behind rhetoric is too often mined with equivocation. (Dunne's Law)

The theory of the conservation of energy was discovered while watching an eight-year-old pretend to work. Bill Cosby

The thickness of the proposal required to win a multimillion dollar contract is about one millimeter per million dollars. If all the proposals conforming to this standard were piled on top of each other at the bottom of the Grand Canyon it would probably be a good idea. (Law Number XXXVI)

The three faithful things in life are money, a dog and an old woman. (Pardo's Second Postulate)

The time available to go fishing shrinks as fishing season draws nearer. (Porkingham's First Law of Sportfishing)

The time it takes to rectify a situation is inversely proportional to the time it took to do the damage. (Drazen's Law of Restitution)

The time spent on any item of the agenda will be in inverse proportion to the sum involved. (Law of Triviality)

The total amount of evil in any system remains constant. Hence, any diminution in one direction – for instance, a reduction in poverty or unemployment – is accompanied by an increase in another, e.g. crime or air pollution. (Issawi's Law of the Conservation of Evil)

The total behavior of large systems cannot be predicted. (Second Alternative Formulation to The Generalized Uncertainty Principle)

The trouble with resisting temptation is it may never come your way again. (Korman's Law)

The trump suit never breaks favourably when you are declarer. (Smith's Third Law of Bridge)

The truth of any proposition has nothing to do with its credibility and vice versa. (Parker's Law of Political Statements)

The universe is infinitely systematized, both upward (larger systems) and downward (smaller systems). (The Third Fundamental Postulate of Advanced Systems Theory)

The universe is not only queerer than we imagine, it's queerer than we *can* imagine. (Haldane's Law)

The value of a program is proportional to the weight of its output. (Sixth Law of Computer Programming)

The voters want fewer taxes and more spending. (Hall's First Law of Politics)

The way out is never as easy as the way in.

The wise are pleased when they discover truth, fools when they discover falsehood. (Gabirol's Observation)

The work-bench is always untidier than last time. (Special Law)

The worse your line is tangled, the better is the fishing around you. (Porkingham's Fishing Philosophy; Porkingham's Third Law of Sportfishing)

The worst actress in the company is always the manager's wife. (Mencken and Nathan's Fifteenth Law of The Average American)

The worst is enemy of the bad. (Murphy's Saving Grace)

The worst is the enemy of the bad. (Murphy's Saving Grace)

The wrong quarterback is the one that's in there. (Murray's Second Rule of the Arena)

Them that has, gets. (Iron Law of Distribution; Murphy's Twenty-fourth Law)

There ain't no such thing as a free lunch. (Crane's Law)

There are always exceptions to established exceptions. (Second Corollary to the First Law of Scientific Progress)

There are four kinds of people: those who sit quietly and do nothing, those who talk about sitting quietly and doing nothing, those who do things, and those who talk about doing things. (Runamok's Law)

There are many highly successful businesses in the United States. There are also many highly paid executives. The policy is not to intermingle the two. (Law Number XIII)

There are never enough hours in a day, but always too many days before Saturday. (Hanson's Treatment of Time)

There are no answers, only cross-references. (Weiner's Law of Libraries)

There are some things which are impossible to know – but it is impossible to know these things. (Jaffe's Precept)

There are two kinds of adhesive tape: tape which won't stay on and that which won't come off. (Telesco's Third Law of Nursing)

There are two rules for success: 1. Never tell everything you know. 2. See rule # 1.

There are two things on earth that are universal, hydrogen and stupidity. (Zappa's Law)

There are two types of dirt: the dark kind, which is attracted to light objects, and the light kind, which is attracted to dark objects. (Slick's Third Law of the Universe)

There are two types of people: those who divide people into two types, and those who don't. (Barth's Distinction)

There are two ways to write error-free programs; only the third one works.

There is a fundamental rule of automation that says: Everything automatically done for you simultaneously does something unpredicted and usually unpleasant to you.

There is a tendency for the person in the most powerful position in an organization to spend all of his or her time serving on committees and signing letters. (Oeser's Law)

There is always a way. (Murphy's Fourth Rule of combat)

There is always a wrong way to do something right. *Christer Sundqvist*

There is always an easier way to do it. (Iles's Law)

There is always an easier way to do it. When looking directly at the easier way, especially for long periods, you will not see it. (First corollary to Iles's Law)

There is always an easier way to do it. When looking directly at the easier way, especially for long periods, you will not see it. Neither will Iles. (Second corollary to Iles's Law)

There is always more dirty laundry than clean laundry. (Walker's Law of the Household)

There is always one more bug. (Lubarsky's Law of Cybernetic Entomology)

There is always someone better off than yourself.
There is an exception to all laws.
There is an optimal size for any project, and it is always bigger than you can afford.
There is never time to do it right, but there is always time to do it over. (Meskimen's Law)
There is no free lunch. *Daniel E Koshland, Jr* (First Law of Sociodynamics)
There is no job so simple that it cannot be done wrong. (Perrussel's Law)
There is no law that vulgarity and literary excellence cannot coexist. *A. Trevor Hodge*
There is no limit to how bad things can get. (Hane's Law)
There is no mechanical problem so difficult that it cannot be solved by brute strength and ignorance.
(William's Law)
There is no such thing as a straight line. (The Ruler Rule)
There is no such thing as instant experience. (Oppenheimer's Law)
There is not now, and never will be, a language in which it is the least bit difficult to write bad programs. (Flon's Law)
There is nothing more respectable than an ancient evil. (Voltaire's Law)
There is nothing so small that it can't be blown out of proportion. (Ruckert's Law)
There is nothing wrong with sex on television just as long as you don't fall off. (Python's Principle of TV Morality)
There's always one more bug. (Lubarsky's Law of Cybernetic Entomology)
There's never time to do it right, but there's always time to do it over. (Meskimen's Law)
There's no time like the present for postponing what you don't want to do. (Hecht's Fourth Law)
Things always fall at right angles. (Sprinkle's Law)
Things are not always what they seem.
Things equal to nothing else are equal to each other. (First Postulate of Iso-Murphism)
Things get worse under pressure. (Murphy's Twenty-second Law; Murphy's Law of Thermodynamics)
Things go right so they can go wrong. (Maahs' Law)
Things that do not change will remain the same.
Things will get worse before they get better. (Ehrman's First Commentary)
Things won't get any better, so get used to it.
Things work better if you plug them in.
Think before you act; it's not your money. (First Truth of Management)
Thinly sliced cabbage. (Cole's Law)
This sentence is false with probability 0.5.
Thomas Edison is alleged to have remarked about his laboratory, There ain't no rules around here.
We're trying to accomplish something.
Those most opposed to serving on committees are made chairmen. (Third Law of Committo-Dynamics)
Those supplies necessary for yesterday's experiment must be ordered no later than tomorrow noon.
(The Ordering Principle)
Those who are most moral are farthest from the problem. (Alinsky's Rule for Radicals)
Those who are unable to learn from past meetings are condemned to repeat them. (McKernan's Maxim)
Those who can - do. Those who cannot - teach. (H. L. Mencken's Law)
Those who cannot teach - administrate. (Martin's Extension to H. L. Mencken's Law)
Those who live closest arrive latest. (Law of Arrival)
Those who want to learn will learn. Those who do not want to learn will lead enterprises. Those incapable of either learning or leading will regulate scholarship and enterprise to death. (Ellard's Law)
Thou shall not committee. (The Eleventh Commandment)

Time is money. (Frothingham's Fallacy)

Time moves slower in a fast moving vehicle. (Relativity for Children)

Time spent consuming a meal is in inverse proportion to time spent preparing it. (Alice Hammond's Fourth Law of the Kitchen)

To decide not to decide is a decision. To fail to decide is a failure. (Fox's Second Rule on Decisiveness)

To err is human, but it feels divine. (Mae West's Observation)

To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer. (Fifth Law of Unreliability)

To err is human - to blame it on someone else is even more human. (Jacob's Law)

To estimate the time it takes to do a task: estimate the time you think it should take, multiply by 2, and change the unit of measure to the next highest unit. Thus we allocate 2 days for a one-hour task. (Westheimer's Rule)

To every exception there is a rule.

To every rule there is an exception, and vice versa.

To get a loan you must prove you don't need it.

To make an enemy, do someone a favor. (McClaughry's Codicil to Jones's Motto)

To say a human being is nothing but molecules is like saying a Shakespearean play is nothing but words. (The Sagan Fallacy)

To spot the expert, pick the one who predicts the job will take the longest and cost the most. (Warren's Rule)

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research. (Felson's Law)

To study a subject best, understand it thoroughly before you start. (Finagle's First Rule)

To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles. (Brown's First Rule of Leadership)

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty of assembly. (Klipstein's Law)

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty to assemble. (Klipstein's First Law Applied to Prototyping and Production)

Toothache tends to start on Saturday night. (Johnson and Laird's Law)

Toothaches always start on Friday night right before the weekend when the Dental Office will be closed.

Trial balances don't. (Spencer's first Law of Accountancy)

Trivial matters are handled promptly; important matters are never solved. (Gresham's Law)

Truck deliveries that normally take one day will take five when you are waiting for the truck. (Second Corollary to Law of Applied Confusion)

Trust everybody, but cut the cards. (Dooley's Law)

Trust only those who stand to lose as much as you when things go wrong. (Bralek's Rule for Success)

Truth is elastic. (Dunlap's Third Law of Physics)

Try to look unimportant, they may be low on ammunition. (Murphy's Sixth Rule of combat)

Trying to be a first-rate reporter on the average American newspaper is like trying to play Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" on an ukelele. (Bagdikian's Observation)

Two fat people will walk side by side, whether they know each other or not. (Corollary to Livingston's Second Law of Fat)

Two monologues do not make a dialogue. (De Nevers' Law of Debate)

Two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water. The other third is covered with auditors from headquarters. (Law Number XLVII)

Two wrongs are only the beginning. (Kohn's Corollary to Murphy's Law)

Undetectable errors are infinite in variety, in contrast to detectable errors, which by definition are limited. (Gilb's Third Law of Unreliability)

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

Unless the results are known in advance, funding agencies will reject the proposal. (Rocky's Dilemma of Innovation Prevention)

Unwritten laws cannot be erased.

Upon returning home, the rate drops again as soon as one has converted all unused foreign currency. (Corollary to Angus' Exchange Axiom)

Urgency varies inversely with importance. (Frothingham's Fourth Law)

Use only as directed. (Catch Phrase of Golomb's Third Don't of Mathematical Modelling)

Useless advice #986: Never sit on a tack.

Users don't know what they really want, but they know for certain what they don't want. (Manubay's Second Law for Programmers)

Variables won't; constants aren't. (Osborn's Law)

Verbs have to agree with their subjects. (William Safire's 4th Rule for Writers)

Vintage quotes are considered to be in the public domain. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2E)

Virtue is its own punishment. (Denniston's Law)

Visualize your problem as solved before solving it. (Tenth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by spontaneously moving from where you left them to where you can't find them. (Fifth Corollary to the Law of Office Morphology)

Vital papers will move from where you left them to where you can't find them. (5th Law of the Office)

Vivid words hook misquotes in the mind. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 1, Corollary 1A)

Wait till the boss comes back and ask him. (Eighth Handy Office Excuse)

Walk at a fast pace when out of the office – this keeps questions from subordinates at a minimum. (Spark's Eighth Rule for the Project Manager)

Warranty and guarantee clauses are voided by payment of the invoice. (The Twentieth Universal Law for Naïve Engineers' Recommended by the Practices Committee of the International Society of Philosophical Engineers)

Washing machines only break down during the wash cycle. (Yeager's Law)

Washing your car to make it rain doesn't work. (Murphy's Law is Recursive; The Unapplicable Law)

We are on the wrong side of the tapestry. *Father Brown*

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

We don't make many mistakes. (Ninth Handy Office Excuse)

We don't reject writers; we reject pieces of paper with typing on them. (George Scither's Rule)

Wear the right costume and the part plays itself. (Ely's Law)

Well-known messengers get credit for clever comments they report from less celebrated mouths. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2A)

What really matters is the name you succeed in imposing on the facts – not the facts themselves. (Cohen's Law)

What speeds up, must slow down. But who says it's ever gonna speed up? (Goebel's Law of Rush Hour Traffic)

What the gods get away with, the cows don't. (The Aquinas Axiom)

What will get you promoted on one level will get you killed on another. (Fox on Levelogy)

What you can't disguise, euphemize! (Crouton's first law of stock rotation)

What you don't do is always more important than what you do. (Worker's Second Dilemma)

What you don't know will always hurt you. (First Law of Blissful Ignorance)

What you resist, you become. (First Principle of Self-Determination)

Whatever can go to New York, will. (Murray's Rule of Baseball; Murray's Fifth Rule of the Arena)

Whatever carrousel you stand by, your baggage will come in on another one. (Basic Baggage Principle)

Whatever goes around, comes around. (Perlsweig's Second Law)

Whatever goes up, stays up. (Law of Insurance and Taxes)

Whatever happens, look as if it were intended. (First Rule of Acting)

Whatever happens to you, it will previously have happened to everyone you know, only more so. (Meader's Law)

Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed. (Law of Probable Dispersal)

Whatever it is, somebody will have had it for lunch. (Alice Hammond's Fifth Law of the Kitchen)

Whatever it is that hits the fan will not be evenly distributed. (Law of Probable Dispersal)

Whatever you set out to do, something else must be done first. (Murphy's Ninth Law)

Whatever you want to do, you have to do something else first.

When a body is immersed in water, the phone rings. (Alexander Bell's Theorem)

When a body is immersed in water, the telephone rings. (Bell's Theorem)

When a broken machine is demonstrated for the repairman, it will work perfectly.

When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong. (Clarke's First Law)

When a hammer is the only tool, every problem looks like a nail.

When a person attempts a task, he or she will be thwarted in that task by the unconscious intervention of some other presence (animate or inanimate). Nevertheless, some tasks are completed, since the intervening presence is itself attempting a task and is, of course, subject to interference. (Sodd's First Law)

When a politician gets an idea, he usually gets it wrong. (The Fifth Rule of Politics)

When a problem goes away, the people working to solve it do not. (Fox on Problematics)

When a student asks for a second time if you have read his book report, he did not read the book. (Rominger's First Rule for Teachers)

When a writer prepares a manuscript on a subject he does not understand, his work will be understood only by readers who know more about that subject than he does. (Whittington's First Law of Communication)

When all else fails, read the instructions. (Cahn's Axiom; Feldman's Axiom)

When all else fails, try boss's suggestion. (Strano's Law)

When all is said and done, more will be said than done.

When an elderly and distinguished scientist says that something is possible, he is very probably right. When he says that something is impossible, he is quite possibly wrong. (Clarke's Law)

When an error has been detected and corrected, it will be found to have been wrong in the first place. (Scott's second Law)

When an error has been detected and corrected, it will be found to have been wrong in the first place. After the correction has been found in error, it will be impossible to fit the original quantity back into the equation. (Corollary to Scott's second Law)

When any mechanical contrivance fails, it will do so at the most inconvenient possible time. (Johnson's First Law)

When anything is used to its full potential, it will break. (Murphy's Thirty-third Law)

When attempting to predict and forecast macro-economic moves of economic legislation by a politician, never be misled by what he says; instead – watch what he does. (Kamin's Sixth Law)

When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, How would the Lone Ranger have handled this? (Brady's First Law of Problem Solving)

When hammering a nail, you will never hit your finger if you hold the hammer with both hands. (Leibowitz's Rule)

When in charge, ponder. (Boren's Third Law)

When in doubt, mumble. (Boren's First Law)

When in doubt, predict that the trend will continue. (Merkin's Maxim)

When in doubt, wash. (Boren's Law for Cats)

When in trouble, delegate. (Boren's Second Law)

When in trouble, obfuscate. (Halgren's Solution)

When it gets to be your turn, they change the rules. (Sigstad's Law)

When it is not necessary to make a decision, it is necessary not to make a decision. (Lord Falkland's Rule)

When it rains, it pours. (Zymurgy's Seventh Exception to Murphy's Law) (Murphy's Observation)

When necessary, metric and inch tools can be used interchangeably. (Bromberg's Third Law of Automotive Repair)

When nothing can possibly go wrong, it will.

When outrageous expenditures are divided finely enough, the public will not have enough stake in any one expenditure to squelch it. (The Guppy Law)

When packing for a vacation, take half as much clothing and twice as much money. (Stitzer's Vacation Principle)

When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other. (Hoffer's Law)

When people you greatly admire appear to be thinking deep thoughts, they probably are thinking about lunch. (Rule of the Great)

When proteup first, thankfully leaving the fuses intact. (Vuilleumier's Fourth Law)

When putting it into memory, remember where you put it. (Leo Beiser's First Computer Axiom)

When reviewing your notes before an exam, the most important ones will be illegible. (First Law of Applied Terror)

When solving an equation system, the result yielded is $x=17x + 1$, which is evidently false. Careful re-computation will yield $x=x$ or $1=1$. (Scheverezhin's Equation System Theorem)

When several reporters share a cab on an assignment, the reporter in the front seat pays for all. (Weaver's Law)

When somebody drops something, everybody will kick it around instead of picking it up. (Dingle's Law)

When somebody you greatly admire and respect appears to be thinking deep thoughts, they probably are thinking about lunch. (Rule of the Great)

When the camera isolates on a male athlete, he will spit, pick or scratch. (Wagner's Law of Sports TV Coverage)

When the going gets tough, everyone leaves. (Lynch's Law)

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro. (Thompson's Theorem)

When the government bureau's remedies do not match your problem, you modify the problem, not the remedy. (Good's Rule for Dealing with Bureaucracies)

When the need arises, any tool or object closest to you becomes a hammer. (Bromberg's First Law of Automotive Repair)

When the plane you're on is late, the plane you need to transfer to is on time.

When the plane you are on is late, the plane you want to transfer to is on time. (The Airplane Law)

When the prototype has been fully assembled according to lab instructions, a minimum of 11 components are left. (Vuilleumier's Seventh Law)

When there are sufficient funds in the bank account, cheques take two weeks to clear. When there are insufficient funds, cheques clear overnight. (Gerard's Law)

When they say, "It isn't the money, it's the principle of it," it's the money.

When things are going well, something will go wrong. (Chisholm's Second Law)

When things just can't get any worse, they will. (First Corollary to Chisholm's Second Law / Chisolm's First Corollary to Murphy's Second Law)

When traveling down the freeway, the first bug to hit a clean windshield will always land directly in front of the driver's face. (Quigley's Law of Highway Driving)

When traveling overseas, the exchange rate improves markedly the day after one has purchased foreign currency. (Angus' Exchange Axiom)

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. (Muir's Law)

When working a problem, it helps to know the answer.

When working on a project, if you put away a tool that you're certain you're finished with, you will need it instantly. (Law of Annoyance)

When working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer. (Rule of Accuracy)

When you are occasionally able to schedule two classes in a row, they will be held in classrooms at opposite ends of the campus. (Corollary to Second Law of Class Scheduling)

When you are served a meal aboard an aircraft, the aircraft will encounter turbulence. (Gunter's First Law of Air Travel)

When you are waiting for your bus to come, 3 buses come in your direction but with "special" on them.

When you ask a dumb question, you get a smart answer. (Eighth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal. (Kovac's Conundrum)

When you do not know what you are doing, do it neatly. (Ground Rule for Laboratory Workers)

When you drop change at a vending machine the pennies will fall nearby while all other coins will roll out of sight. (Rush's Rule of Gravity)

When you get to the point where you think that nothing is impossible, try pushing toothpaste back into a tube.

When you get what you want you don't want it as much.

When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy. (Murphy's Nineteenth Rule of combat)

When you need to knock on wood is when you realize that the world is composed of vinyl, naugahyde and aluminum. (Flugg's Law)

When you need to knock on wood is when you realize that the world's composed of aluminum and vinyl. (Flugg's Law)

When you pour, it rains. (Byrne's Law of Concreting)

When you see something that should be done, do it at once. (Peg Bracken's Rule)

When you starve with a tiger, the tiger starves last. (Griffin's Thought)

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will. (Willoughby's Law)

When your cat has fallen asleep on your lap and looks utterly content and adorable, you will suddenly have to go to the bathroom. (Rule of Feline Frustration)

When you're in one, stop digging. (Healey's Law of Holes)

When you're not in a hurry, the traffic light will turn green as soon as your vehicle comes to a complete stop. (McKee's Law)

When you're up to your nose, keep your mouth shut. (Beauregard's Law)

When you're waiting in a long queue, the people behind you are shunted to a new, short queue. (Vile's Second Law of Advanced Queuemanship)

Whenever a superstar is traded to your favorite team, he fades. Whenever your team trades away a useless no-name, he immediately rises to stardom. (Knox's Principle of Star Quality)

Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition. (Brooke's Law)

Whenever a system becomes completely defined, someone discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition. (Brooke's Law)

Whenever you cut your fingernails you will find a need for them an hour later. (Witten's Law)

Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first. (Sixth corollary to Murphy's Law)

Whenever you turn on the radio, you hear the last few notes of your favorite song. (Horowitz's Law)

Where an exaggerated emphasis is placed upon delegation, responsibility, like sediment, sinks to the bottom. (Rusk's Law of Delegation)

Where there's a will, there's a way. (Gualtieri's Law of Inertia)

Where you sit depends on who you know. (Fibley's Extension to Miles' Law)

Where you stand depends on where you sit. (Miles' Law)

Where zoning is not needed, it will work perfectly. Where it is desperately needed, it always breaks down. (McClaughry's Law of Zoning)

Whichever way you turn upon entering an elevator, the buttons will be on the opposite side. (Gluck's First Law)

Who said things would get better? (Ehrman's Second Commentary)

Who to himself is law no law doth need, offends no law, and is a king indeed.

Who you think said something may depend on where you live. (Keyes Rules of Misquotation, Axiom 2, Corollary 2D)

Whoever has the gold makes the rules. (The Golden Rule of Arts and Sciences)

Win or lose, you lose. (Jensen's Law)

Wind velocity increases directly with the cost of the hairdo. (Reynold's Law of Climatology)

Wisdom consists of knowing when to avoid perfection. (Horowitz's Rule)

Work expands to fill available time. (Parkinson's First Law)

Work expands to fill the time available for its completion; the thing to be done swells in perceived importance and complexity in a direct ratio with the time to be spent in its completion. (Parkinson's First Law)

Work is accomplished by those employees who have not yet reached their level of incompetence. (Second Corollary to the Peter Principle)

Workers won't. (Brooks Fifth Law of Retailing)

Working capital doesn't. (Spencer's Second Law of Accountancy)

Write down your ideas before you forget them. (Fifth Creative Rule of The Thumb)

Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided. (William Safire's 12th Rule for Writers)

Writings prepared without understanding must fail in the first objective of communication – informing the uninformed. (Corollary to Whittington's First Law of Communication)

You always find something in the last place you look, unless it's not there.

You always find something the last place you look. (Boob's Law)

You are always complimented on the item which took the least effort to prepare. (Fifth Law of Kitchen Confusion)

You are never given enough time or money. (Corollary to Lerman's Law of Technology)

You can always find what you are not looking for. (Maryann's Law)

You can always find what you're not looking for. (Maryann's Law)

You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you Can't Fool Mom. (Captain Penny's Law)

You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time and that is sufficient. (Murphy's Thirteenth Law)

You can know something has gone wrong only when you make an odd number of mistakes. (Murphy's Uncertainty Principle)

You can lead a horse to water, but if you can get him to float on his back, you've got something. (Hartley's First Law)

You can live outside the law, but you must be honest.

You can make it foolproof, but you can't make it damnfoolproof. (Naeser's Law)

You can never be sure how many beers you had last night. (The Heineken Uncertainty Principle)

You can never do just one thing. (Hardin's Law)

You can never tell which way the train went by looking at the track. (Kramer's Law)

You can observe a lot just by watching. (Berra's First Law)

You can only break even at absolute zero. (The Third Law of Thermodynamics)

You can tell how bad a musical is by how many times the chorus yells, 'Hooray.' (Crosby's Law)

You cannot cross a river in two strides. (The Siddhartha Principle)

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

You cannot successfully determine beforehand which side of the bread to butter. (Law of the Perversity of Nature)

You can't break even. (Ginsberg's Second Theorem)

You can't even quit the game. (Ginsberg's Third Theorem)

You can't fall off the floor. (Paul's Law)

You can't fix it if it ain't broke. (First Law of Repair)

You can't get anything without working for it. (The First Law of "Thermodynamics")

You can't get here from there. (Young's Comment on Scientific Method)

You can't guard against the arbitrary. (Borkowski's Law)

You can't out-talk a man who knows what he's talking about. (Hutchins' Law)

You can't push on a rope. (Meadow's Maxim)

You can't tell how deep a puddle is until you step in it. (Miller's Law)

You can't win. (Ginsberg's First Theorem)

You get the most of what you need the least. (Law of Gifts; Fourth Law of Gardening)

You have taken yourself too seriously. (The Fifth Rule)

You may know where the market is going, but you can't possibly know where it's going after that. (Heisenberg's Principle of Investment)

You need a bigger hammer. (Paul's Second Law)

You never find an article until you replace it. (Harper's Magazine's Law)

You never have the right number of pills left on the last day of a prescription. (Fourth Principle for Patients)

You never know who's right, but you always know who's in charge. (Whistler's Law)

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. (Grandpa Charnock's Law)

You never want the one you can afford. (Baker's Law; Baker's Corollary to Finman's Bargain Basement Principle)

You remember to mail a letter only when you're nowhere near a mailbox. (Howdens' Law)

You will reach the telephone just in time to hear the click of the caller hanging up. (Bess' Second Universal Principle)

You will save yourself a lot of needless worry if you don't burn your bridges until you come to them. (First Rule of Negative Anticipation)

Your own car uses more gas and oil than anyone else's. (Vile's Law of Roadsmanship)

You're always complimented on the item that took the least effort to prepare. (Law of the Kitchen)

You've never been as sick as just before you stop breathing. (Macaluso's Doctrine)