

# Advice from a statistical consultant

- I owe my success to having listened respectfully to the very best advice, and then going away and doing the exact opposite.[Chesterton]
- Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatsoever to do with it.[Somerset Maugham]

# Life, the universe and everything

- Where am I?
- How did I get here?
- What do I like to do?
- What do I wish I'd been told?
- What would I do differently?
- What couldn't I do without?

# Where am I?

- You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.[Camus]
- What is the meaning of life? To be happy and useful.[Dalai Lama]
- The only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty; not knowing what comes next.[Legun]

# How did I get here?

- One thing is sure. We have to do something.  
[Roosevelt]
- A career is wonderful but you can't curl up with it on a cold night.[Monroe]
- You do not become a "dissident" just because you decide one day to take up this most unusual career.[Havel]

# What do I like to do?

- When one admits that nothing is certain one must, I think, also add that some things are more nearly certain than others.[Russell]
- There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know.[Rumsfeld]

# What do I wish I'd been told?

- Some men are born mediocre, some men achieve mediocrity, and some men have mediocrity thrust upon them.[Heller]
- If I have not seen as far as others, it is because giants were standing on my shoulders.[Goll]
- Computers are like Old Testament gods; lots of rules and no mercy.[Campbell]

# What would I do differently?

- If I were again beginning my studies, I would follow the advice of Plato and start with mathematics.[Galileo]
- You always admire what you really don't understand.[Pascal]
- In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.[Orwell]

# What couldn't I do without?

- Programs with more comments than code
- Touch typing
- I learnt to write simply
- SAS / R / StatTransfer
- CD backup / ghosting
- Boolean searching
- [www.math-jobs.com](http://www.math-jobs.com)
- [www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/jobs](http://www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/jobs)
- [www.psiweb.org](http://www.psiweb.org)
- [www.sens.demon.co.uk/pharmsts](http://www.sens.demon.co.uk/pharmsts)