

NEVER LOSE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR[©]

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“Whatever else you lose, never lose your sense of humor.” That line was used by my first TV exercise class instructor, Joanie Greggains. She’d be joking and laughing, not even out of breath as she said it while I was twisted up like a pretzel, my face grimacing in pain from her workout. Her program’s no longer on the air but I’ve never forgotten her line, which I think is very appropriate career - and life - advice for everyone. So, in honor of Joanie, where ever she is, this page is dedicated to some clean financial humor.

Our first chuckle comes from Rich Chin, who way back in 1996 posted the following on his school webpage where it still sits making the Internet rounds, most recently being passed on to me through someone I know who received it from someone he knew... I caught up with Rich to get his permission to share his guide with you only to find out that Rich isn’t the author. Turns out this brief has been making the Internet rounds years before he picked it up and put it on his website. (Note: let this be a lesson regarding the Internet: once you’ve put something online it can stay there forever. For example, I’ve had people have resumes that they posted on job boards ages ago show up years later.). Although his was titled **“** A brief guide to scientific literature**”**, I think that it’s equally relevant as renamed and with “==” replaced with *“really means”* by me.

**** A BRIEF GUIDE TO FINANCIAL CONVERSATIONS ****

- “It has long been known” *really means* “I haven’t bothered to check the references”.
- “It is known” *really means* “I believe”.
- “It is believed” *really means* “I think”.
- “It is generally believed” *really means* “My colleagues and I think”.
- “There has been some discussion” *really means* “Nobody agrees with me”.
- “It can be shown” *really means* “Take my word for it”.
- “It is proven” *really means* “It agrees with something mathematical”.
- “Of great theoretical importance” *really means* “I find it interesting”.
- “Of great practical importance” *really means* “This justifies my employment”.
- “Of great historical importance” *really means* “This ought to make me famous”.
- “Some samples were chosen for study” *really means* “The others didn't make sense”.
- “Typical results are shown” *really means* “The best results are shown”.
- “Correct within order of magnitude” *really means* “Wrong”.
- “The values were obtained empirically” *really means* “The values were obtained by accident”.
- “The results are inconclusive” *really means* “The results seem to disprove my hypothesis”.
- “Additional work is required” *really means* “Someone else can work on the details”.
- “It might be argued that” *really means* “I have a good answer to this objection”.
- “The investigations proved rewarding” *really means* “My grant has been renewed”.
- “Synthesized according to standard protocols” *really means* “Purchased”.