

# Edward Witten

## Quotes

*Strings, Nature, Change, Time, Strong, Beauty, Real, Ordinary, Might, Three, Everyday, Long, Physics, World, Introducing, Cousin, Consciousness, Figures, Dimensions, Giving*

There was a long history of speculation that in quantum gravity, unlike Einstein's classical theory, it might be possible for the topology of spacetime to change.

~Edward Witten

There is a difference between knowing what is true and knowing why it is true

~Edward Witten

We know a lot of things, but what we don't know is a lot more.

~Edward Witten

I have a tendency, more than most other physicists, to try to figure out everything all at once, before I publish. And even to try to figure out everything in my head, without pencil and paper.

~Edward Witten

Im actually, for the most part, a complete agnostic politically.

~Edward Witten

So when you ask me how string theory might be tested, I can tell you what's likely to happen at accelerators or some parts of the theory that are likely to be tested.

~Edward Witten

I have a much easier time imagining how we would understand the big bang, even though we can't do it yet, than I can imagine understanding consciousness.

~Edward Witten

As of now, string theorists have no explanation of why there are three large dimensions as well as time, and the other dimensions are microscopic. Proposals about that have been all over the map.

~Edward Witten

One very important aspect of string theory is definitely testable. That was the prediction of supersymmetry, which emerged from string theory in the early '70s.

~Edward Witten

M stands for Magic, Mystery, or Matrix according to taste

~Edward Witten

String theory is an attempt at a deeper description of nature by thinking of an elementary particle not as a little point but as a little loop of vibrating string.

~Edward Witten

The theory has to be interpreted that extra dimensions beyond the ordinary four dimensions the three spatial dimensions plus time are sufficiently small that they haven't been observed yet.

~Edward Witten

I wouldn't have thought that a wrong theory should lead us to understand better the ordinary quantum field theories or to have new insights about the quantum states of black holes.

~Edward Witten

One of the basic things about a string is that it can vibrate in many different shapes or forms, which gives music its beauty.

~Edward Witten

$1/r^2$  has a nasty singularity at  $r=0$ , but it did not bother Newton-the Moon is far enough.

~Edward Witten

As far as extra dimensions are concerned, very tiny extra dimensions wouldn't be perceived in everyday life, just as atoms aren't: we see many atoms together but we don't see atoms individually.

~Edward Witten

It's indeed surprising that replacing the elementary particle with a string leads to such a big change in things. I'm tempted to say that it has to do with the fuzziness it introduces.

~Edward Witten

You enter a completely new world where things aren't at all what you're used to.

~Edward Witten

String theory is 21 st century physics that fell accidentally into the 20th century.

~Edward Witten

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