Marvin Minsky Quotes

Thinking, Mind, Years, Knowledge, Brain, Way, Robots, Intelligent, People, Ideas, Vision, Simple, Smart, Computer, Real, Humorous, Would Be, Machines, Seems, Levels

You don't understand anything until you learn it more than one way.

~Marvin Minsky

Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men.

~Marvin Minsky

No computer has ever been designed that is ever aware of what it's doing; but most of the time, we aren't either.

~Marvin Minsky

Within 10 years computers won't even keep us as pets.

~Marvin Minsky

Anyone could learn Lisp in one day, except that if they already knew Fortran, it would take three days.

~Marvin Minsky

We'll show you that you can build a mind from many little parts, each mindless by itself.

~Marvin Minsky

I bet the human brain is a kludge

~Marvin Minsky

I cannot articulate enough to express my dislike to people who think that understanding spoils your experience... How would they know?

~Marvin Minsky

It's ridiculous to live 100 years and only be able to remember 30 million bytes. You know, less than a compact disc. The human condition is really becoming more obsolete every minute.

~Marvin Minsky

The brain happens to be a meat machine.

~Marvin Minsky

Minds are simply what brains do.

~Marvin Minsky

You don't understand anything unless you understand there are at least 3 ways.

~Marvin Minsky

Everything, including that which happens in our brains, depends on these and only on these: A set of fixed, deterministic laws.

~Marvin Minsky

Will robots inherit the earth? Yes, but they will be our children.

~Marvin Minsky

Logic doesn't apply to the real world. D. R. Hofstadter and D. C. Dennett (eds.) The Mind's I, 1981.

~Marvin Minsky

An ethicist is somebody who sees something wrong with whatever you have in mind.

~Marvin Minsky

Listening to music engages the previously acquired personal knowledge of the listener.

~Marvin Minsky

In general, we're least aware of what our minds do best.

~Marvin Minsky

The principal activities of brains are making changes in themselves.

~Marvin Minsky

What magical trick makes us intelligent? The trick is that there is no trick. The power of intelligence stems from our vast diversity, not from any single, perfect principle.

~Marvin Minsky

Theorems often tell us complex truths about the simple things, but only rarely tell us simple truths about the complex ones. To believe otherwise is wishful thinking or "mathematics envy."

~Marvin Minsky

Logic doesn't apply to the real world.

~Marvin Minsky

One can acquire certainty only by amputating inquiry.

~Marvin Minsky

General fiction is pretty much about ways that people get into problems and screw their lives up. Science fiction is about everything else.

~Marvin Minsky

All intelligent problem solvers are subject to the same ultimate constraints - limitations on space, time, and materials.

~Marvin Minsky

Computer languages of the future will be more concerned with goals and less with procedures specified by the programmer.

~Marvin Minsky

There are three basic approaches to AI: Case-based, rule-based, and connectionist reasoning.

~Marvin Minsky

How many processes are going on, to keep that teacup level in your grasp? There must be a hundred of them.

~Marvin Minsky

In science, one learns the most by studying what seems to be the least.

~Marvin Minsky

Imagine what it would be like if TV actually were good. It would be the end of everything we know.

~Marvin Minsky

Kubrick's vision seemed to be that humans are doomed, whereas Clarke's is that humans are moving on to a better stage of evolution.

~Marvin Minsky

Speed is what distinguishes intelligence. No bird discovers how to fly: evolution used a trillion bird-years to 'discover' that - where merely hundreds of person-years sufficed.

~Marvin Minsky

Once the computers got control, we might never get it back. We would survive at their sufferance. If we're lucky, they might decide to keep us as pets.

~Marvin Minsky

Experience has shown that science frequently develops most fruitfully once we learn to examine the things that seem the simplest, instead of those that seem the most mysterious.

~Marvin Minsky

The nature of mind: much of its power seems to stem from just the messy ways its agents cross-connect. ...it's only what we must expect from evolution's countless tricks.

~Marvin Minsky

If we understood something just one way, we would not understand it at all.

~Marvin Minsky

I believed in realism, as summarized by John McCarthy's comment to the effect that if we worked really hard, we'd have an intelligent system in from four to four hundred years.

~Marvin Minsky

There was a failure to recognize the deep problems in AI; for instance, those captured in Blocks World. The people building physical robots learned nothing.

~Marvin Minsky

But the big feature of human-level intelligence is not what it does when it is works but what it does when it's stuck.

~Marvin Minsky

Everything is similar if you're willing to look far out of focus.

~Marvin Minsky

What would a Martian visitor think to see a human being laugh? It must look truly horrible: the sight of furious gestures, flailing limbs, and thorax heaving in frenzied contortions.

~Marvin Minsky

Eventually, robots will make everything.

~Marvin Minsky

To say that the universe exists is silly, because it says that the universe is one of the things in the universe. So there's something wrong with questions like, "What caused the Universe to exist?"

~Marvin Minsky

We turn to quantities when we can't compare the qualities of things.

~Marvin Minsky

We wanted to solve robot problems and needed some vision, action, reasoning, planning, and so forth. We even used some structural learning, such as was being explored by Patrick Winston.

~Marvin Minsky

It would be as useless to perceive how things 'actually look' as it would be to watch the random dots on untuned television screens.

~Marvin Minsky

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