

# Steven Levitt

## Quotes

*People, Conventional Wisdom, Data, Thinking, Experts, Reading, Information,  
Incentives, Keys, Verify, Book, Knows, Doe, Ideas, Mother, Reality, Gun, Fun,  
Children, Wisdom*

The conventional wisdom is often wrong.

~Steven Levitt

No matter how expert you may be, well-designed checklists can improve outcomes.

~Steven Levitt

Morality, it could be argued, represents the way that people would like the world to work, whereas economics represents how it actually does work.

~Steven Levitt

An incentive is a bullet, a key: an often tiny object with astonishing power to change a situation

~Steven Levitt

When people don't pay the true cost of something, they tend to consume it inefficiently.

~Steven Levitt

Solving a problem is hard enough; it gets that much harder if you've decided beforehand it can't be done.

~Steven Levitt

Purity is a good mask for corruption because it discourages inquiry.

~Steven Levitt

Data, I think, is one of the most powerful mechanisms for telling stories. I take a huge pile of data and I try to get it to tell stories.

~Steven Levitt

If you own a gun and have a swimming pool in the yard, the swimming pool is almost 100 times more likely to kill a child than the gun is.

~Steven Levitt

Scarcity is a captivating book, overflowing with new ideas, fantastic stories, and simple suggestions that just might change the way you live.

~Steven Levitt

Don't trust, just verify.

~Steven Levitt

The gulf between the information we proclaim & the information we know to be true is vast. In other words: we say one thing & do another.

~Steven Levitt

Information is a beacon, a cudgel, an olive branch, a deterrent--all depending on who wields it and how.

~Steven Levitt

As W.C. Fields once said: a thing worth having is a thing worth cheating for.

~Steven Levitt

Levitt admits to having the reading interests of a tweener girl, the Twilight series and Harry Potter in particular.

~Steven Levitt

The data don't lie: a Chicago street prostitute is more likely to have sex with a cop than to be arrested by one.

~Steven Levitt

The key to learning is feedback. It is nearly impossible to learn anything without it.

~Steven Levitt

An expert must be BOLD if he hopes to alchemize his homespun theory into conventional wisdom.

~Steven Levitt

### **Related Links:**

- People Quotes
- Conventional Wisdom Quotes
- Data Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Experts Quotes
- Reading Quotes
- Information Quotes
- Incentives Quotes
- Keys Quotes
- Verify Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Knows Quotes
- Doe Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Mother Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Gun Quotes
- Fun Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Wisdom Quotes