

William of Ockham

Quotes

Occam's Razor, Entity, Reason, Should, Explanation, Two, Numbers, Simplicity, Simple, Equal, Assumption, Summer, Logic, Song, Decision, Theory, Term, Firsts, Self, Imperfection

The explanation requiring the fewest assumptions is most likely to be correct.

~William of Ockham

Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem

~William of Ockham

For nothing ought to be posited without a reason given, unless it is self-evident (literally, known through itself) or known by experience or proved by the authority of Sacred Scripture.

~William of Ockham

God's existence cannot be deduced by reason alone.

~William of Ockham

With all things being equal, the simplest explanation tends to be the right one.

~William of Ockham

It is vain to do with more what can be done with less.

~William of Ockham

Simpler explanations are, other things being equal, generally better than more complex ones.

~William of Ockham

When you have two competing theories that make exactly the same predictions, the simpler one is the better.

~William of Ockham

Never increase, beyond what is necessary, the number of entities required to explain anything.

~William of Ockham

No more things should be presumed to exist than are absolutely necessary.

~William of Ockham

Entities are not to be multiplied beyond necessity.

~William of Ockham

First it must be known that only a spoken word or a conventional sign is an equivocal or univocal term; therefore a mental content or concept is, strictly speaking, neither equivocal nor univocal.

~William of Ockham

3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, and 7 is a prime. Why bother with non-prime numbers when the primes can do everything?

~William of Ockham

Of two equivalent theories or explanations, all other things being equal, the simpler one is to be preferred.

~William of Ockham

Whenever two hypotheses cover the facts, use the simpler of the two.

~William of Ockham

What can be explained by the assumption of fewer things is vainly explained by the assumption of more things.

~William of Ockham

Entities must not be multiplied beyond necessity.

~William of Ockham

Entities should not be posited unnecessarily.

~William of Ockham

Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate. A plurality (of reasons)

should not be posited without necessity.

~William of Ockham

Plurality should not be assumed without necessity.

~William of Ockham

Plurality is not to be posited without necessity.

~William of Ockham

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