

- Michael Atiyah
  - If you have only one proof of a theorem then you cannot say that you understand it very well.
- Freeman Dyson
  - But still, classical music and classical mathematics are not dead. Mozart lives, and so does Euler. When the wheel of fashion turns once more, quantum mechanics and hard analysis will once again be in style.
- Ennio de Giorgi
  - If you can't prove your theorem, keep shifting parts of the conclusion to the assumptions, until you can.
- John Edensor Littlewood
  - All identities are trivial.
- Hermann Weyl:
  - My work always tried to unite the truth with the beautiful, but when I had to choose one or the other, I usually chose the beautiful.
  - In these days the angel of topology and the devil of abstract algebra fight for the soul of every individual discipline of mathematics.
- Bartel van der Waerden:
  - In algebra, not much is marvelous. One reasons with signs that one has created oneself, one deduces consequences from arbitrary axioms: There is nothing to wonder about. But how marvellous geometry is!
- Solomon Lefschetz
  - If it's just turning the crank it's algebra, but if it's got an idea in it, it's topology.
- Paul Halmos
  - Applied mathematics is bad mathematics.
- Anonymous
  - Applied mathematics consists of those areas of physics in which the physicists are no longer interested.

- Louis Pasteur
  - There does not exist a category of science to which one can give the name applied science. There are science and the applications of science, bound together as the fruit of the tree which bears it.
- Hendrik Lenstra
  - There are two types of mathematics: Applied mathematics and not-yet-applied mathematics.
- Nikolai Lobachevsky
  - There is no branch of mathematics, however abstract, which may not someday be applied to the phenomena of the real world.
- Gian-Carlo Rota:
  - Ever since Appollonius, in the society of mathematicians any subject that finds too many applications is inexorably declassé.
  - Today, after the advent of braided categories and quantum groups, categories are beginning to look downright concrete, and the last remaining anticategorical reactionaries are beginning to look downright pathetic.